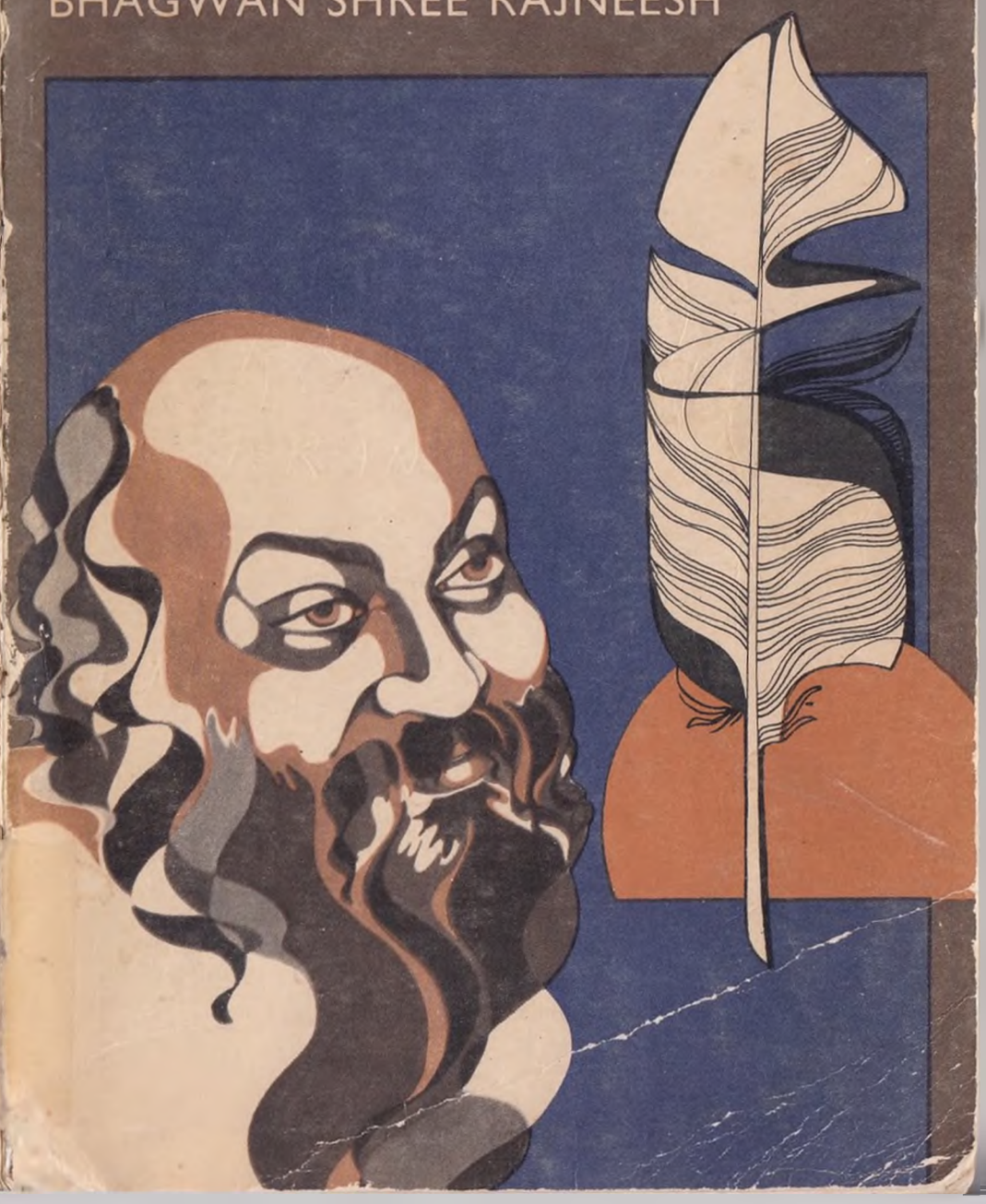
Flowers of Love

BHAGWAN SHREE RAJNEESH



FLOWERS OF LOVE

Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh

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Dolly Diddee

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FOREWARD

(Translated from the Hindi Version)

The following flower-like letters are not only "Flowers of Love" but also flowers of prayer, flowers of surrender, flowers of meditation and of Samadhi. There are also flowers of joy as well as flowers of freedom among them.

Where is the fountainhead of these flowers of love?

In him who has attained supreme bliss, the utmost peace, the height of freedom and the Ultimate Liberation. From his every breath, from every pore of his body, every atom of his Being, the nectar of music, song, dance, poetry, fragrance and splendour rains down constantly and bathe the entire Existence! Some call this music, this dance, this song, love; some say it is bliss; yet others call it peace; and some, Liberation itself! But all these are different names for the same Truth.

There is such a ONE—BHAGWAN SHREE RAJNEESH—who is egoless, Void, and one with the Reality and Non-Reality; whose breath has become the breath of the Cosmos; whose heartbeats are one with the pulse of the stars and the moon; whose eyes emit the light of infinite suns, moons and stars; whose smile exudes the fragrance of all the flowers of the earth; whose voice echoes the innocent twitter of the morning birds; and whose entire personality has become a song, a dance, a festival!

When this fragrant, melodious, resplendent personality—from whom flows a constant stream of love and compassion—is allied with pen and paper, letters and inquiries, the river of knowledge begins to flow from its source—skipping, jumping, dancing and singing enchantingly on paper—in the form of letters, to meet the ocean of life!

These letters touch various forms and colours of life—the world, worship and meditation. In them are the depths of the ocean and the vast expanse of the Cosmos. Many a time, these

letters transcend the limits of time and space and make a near–successful effort to express the inexpressible experience of the Void.

These letters are short and sutra–like, direct and delicate. They are sweet and to the point, and at the same time they shake the individual into wakefulness. They contain not only theories, ethics and philosophy, but also the depths of practical meditation.

These letters are hints of that which is nameless, that which is formless, that which is inexpressible. They can also serve as milestones and helpers for your journey toward the Unknown.

Since these letters are written on a personal level to devotees, seekers and those thirsty for the quintessence of love, you will experience a subtle, transparent nearness and feel the touch of a loving embrace. They will touch your life breath and penetrate you deep within—deep, deep and yet more deep!

The titles of the letters have come spontaneously to the Editor; perhaps they will prove useful to the reader.

In a wordless, thoughtless, state of mind, it came to some to bring out a collection of these immortal letters on the 11th of December 1970—Bhagwan's fortieth birthday (in Hindi). Some enthusiatic friends started work immediately. Time was short, but they were swayed by the breath and fragrance of the letters. Hence, this collection of "Flowers of Love" is now in your hands.

Soon we shall be publishing a second and a third collection of these immortal letters—"The Wisdom of Love" and "The Melody of Life."

We fondly acknowledge the assistance of: Ma Yoga Bhagwati, Ma Dharma Jyoti, Shree Pathak, Shree Panday, Shree Tandon and others. Our hearts are overflowing with love toward those who have sent us their precious letters or their copies and who have helped in this work.

Finally, with the hope that the ever–flowing ripples of unconditional love, the boundless compassion, the Cosmic bliss, the glow of Enlightenment, the showering nectar, the all–pervading fragrance and the blossoming buds that each of us has tasted from Bhagwan, may also be experienced by our readers, we present these "Flowers of Love".

***Swami Yoga Chimmaya**

* Bombay, India
1st December 1970

BHAGWAN'S "TEN COMMANDMENTS"

(Once Bhagwan was asked by a devotee for his "Ten Commandments" [See letter No. 59]. Bhagwan replied, "You have asked for my Ten Commandments. It is very difficult, because, I am against any sort of commandment. Yet, just for the fun of it, I write as follows:)

1. Obey no commandment unless it is a commandment from within.
2. There is no God other than life itself.
3. Truth is within; seek not elsewhere.
4. Love is prayer.
5. To be Void is the door. To be Void is the method, the destination, the attainment.
6. Life is — HERE and NOW.
7. Live — fully awake!
8. Do not swim — float.
9. Die each moment so that you grow anew each moment.
10. Seek not. That which is, IS. Stop — and see.

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Flowers Of Love

A compilation of 150 immortal lectures written by Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh to various seekers, translated from the original Hindi version: "Prem ke Phool."

1/ FLOWERS OF LOVE

Beloved Sohan,

Love. I received your letter.
The heart was overwhelmed with your poem.
It is said that love gives birth to poetry.
In your letter, I saw this happen.
When there is love, the whole Existence becomes a poem.
The flowers of life blossom only under the light of love.
And you have asked why my heart holds so much love for you.
Is there ever a reason for love?
And if there be any reason, can it be called love?
Oh! Love is, forever, without reason.
This alone is its secret and this alone, its purity.
And this being without reason is the reason why **it is Divine and belongs to the Kingdom of God.**
Besides, I am filled with love as a flame is filled with light.
But to experience this light one must have eyes.
You had those eyes, so you recognized the light.
The credit goes to you, not to me.

To: Mrs. Sohan Bafna, Poona, M.S.

2/ LOVE IS PRAYER

Beloved Sister,

Love. I received your letter.

I am happy to know that you are happy.

This is the joy of my life.

That all be filled with bliss is the prayer that emerges from me with every breath:

This alone I have realized as religion.

The religion which ends in temples and places of worship is a dead religion.

A religion which does not transcend beyond lifeless words and doctrines is of no value.

An authentic and living religion is that which connects with the WHOLE and leads to the WHOLE.

That which unites with the life-stream of the All—that is religion.

And these expressions of inner feelings that lead toward this wonderful confluence and union are prayers.

And all these prayers become manifest in one word alone.

That word is—love.

What does love desire?

The bliss that I have attained love wants to distribute to all!

Love wants to give itself to all!

To surrender oneself unconditionally is love.

As the drop loses itself in the ocean, so also, **to surrender one's own being in the Ocean of the Absolute—is love.**

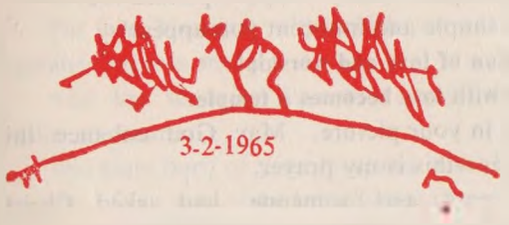
That alone is prayer.

I sway in such LOVE.

Its touch has filled life with radiance and nectar.

Now there is only one wish: What has happened to me, let it happen to all!

Give my love to all there. You are meeting me at Kalyan on 11th February—aren't you?



To: Sushree Sohan Bafna, Poona

3/ TEMPLE OF LOVE — AN INNOCENT, SIMPLE HEART

Sohan,

Beloved! I received your letter, and your picture too.

I look at it—how simple and innocent you appear!

Such a manifestation of love and worship!

The heart purified with love becomes a temple.

This I see clearly in your picture. May God enhance this simple innocence forever—this is my prayer.

Two thousand years ago, someone had asked Christ: "Who is qualified to enter the Kingdom of Heaven?"

And Jesus pointed to a child and said:

"Those whose hearts are as innocent as the child's."

Looking at your picture, this story came to my mind.

To: Mrs. Sohan Bafna, Poona

4/ THE FRAGRANCE OF LOVE

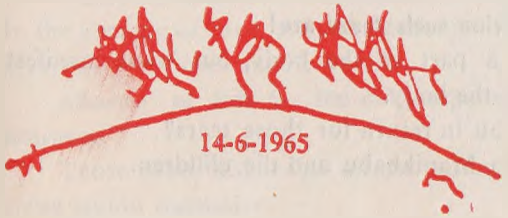
Beloved Sohan,

Early this morning, your letter arrived.

The love blossoms with which you weave your garlands—their fragrance reaches me!

And the seeds of love you sow, I feel them taking root within my heart!

The tears born of your love and bliss become the light and strength of my eyes. And what bliss there is in this!



To: Sushree Sohan Bafna, Poona

5/ THE TEARS OF LOVE

Beloved Sohan,

Love. I have just arrived.

The train was five hours late. You had wanted that I should write immediately after reaching here, so I am doing likewise.

Throughout the journey, I remembered you and the tears rolling down your eyes.

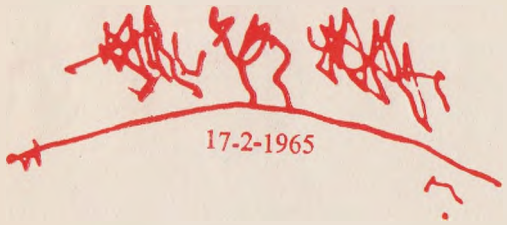
There is nothing on this earth more sublime than tears of love and beatitude.

How pure and Divine such tears are!

Verily, they are a part of the body, but what manifests through them is not of the body.

What can I give you in return for those tears?

My fondest love to Manikbabu and the children.



To: Sushree Sohan Bafna, Poona

6/ THE DEATH OF THE EGO IN THE FULLNESS OF LOVE

Beloved Sohan,

Love, and yet more love.

From the pile of letters awaiting me on my return, I first looked for yours!

Written in your own hand—how happy I am to receive it—how shall I tell?

You have said, "Now your presence is felt even in absence."

Love, in fact, is presence.

Where there is love, the distances of place and time vanish. In the absence of love, even the nearness in time and place proves a vast and insurmountable barrier.

Absence of love is the only separation. Love is the only nearness.

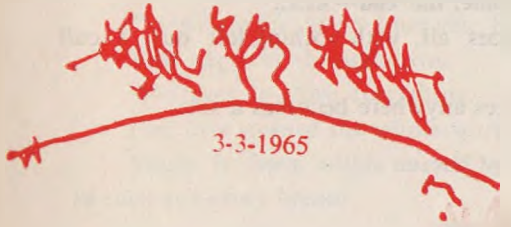
Those who attain the all-pervading love experience every thing within themselves.

The world is then felt not without, but within. And the moon and stars appear in the skies of the within.

In this fullness of love, the ego vanishes.

That God may ever lead you toward this fullness is my cherished wish.

Love to Manikbabu and the children.



To: Sushree Sohan Bafna, Poona

7/ LOVE — FROM ONE TO ALL

Beloved Sohan,

I came here yesterday and have been thinking of writing ever since, but I am just writing now.

Forgive this delay.

Even one day's delay is not a small delay!

What shall I say about the return journey? It was very blissful.

Throughout, I slept, and you were with me.

Apparently, I had left you behind—but actually, you were with me.

This, is the "being together" where there is no question of separation.

Physical nearness is no nearness.

There is no union on that level because of an insurmountable abyss.

But there is a nearness which is not of the body.

This nearness alone is love.

Once attained, it is never lost.

Then, in spite of infinite distances in the visual world, there is no distance in the subtle world.

If this "distance–lessness" is attained with even one, it can be attained with all.

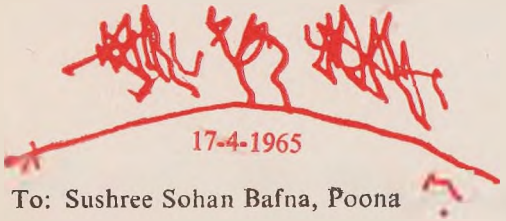
One is the door—the All, the destination.

The beginning of love is one: the end—ALL!

Such love that embraces all, with nothing left out, I call religion.

That love which stagnates anywhere becomes a sin.

Love to Manikbabu.



To: Sushree Sohan Bafna, Poona

8/ LOVE IS MUSIC, BEAUTY — HENCE, RELIGION

Beloved Sohan,

Love. I received your letter.

Your words have made me very happy.

As tiny flowers manifest infinite beauty, **words that come from the depths and fullness of the heart echo the boundless infinity.**

Love breathes into words giving them life. Then, what manifests is not what is said, but what wants to be expressed.

Within each one of us there is the poet. Within each, there is poetry.

But we live only on the surface of our being. Therefore, it is not born.

He who goes deep within himself experiences the awakening of this magnificent celestial love.

And this love fills his entire life with music, beauty, peace and poetry.

His very life becomes music.

And on this foundation of music Truth descends.

Music is the base for the descent of Truth.

It is essential to make life a melody.

Through this medium alone can one progress toward Truth.

You too have to become a melody.

The whole life, every little act, has to be turned into music.

This happens through love.

Whatever is—love everything.

Feel love toward the whole world.

Music is born within oneself by feelings of love toward all, in each and every breath.

Have you ever seen this happen?

See this—fill yourself with love and see.

That alone is unrighteousness, that alone is sin—which breaks the music within.

And that alone is righteousness, that alone is virtue—that

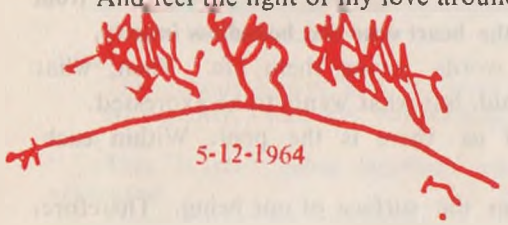
fills us with music within.

Love is righteousness—for love is beauty, love is music.

Love is God—for it is the only qualification to attain Him.

Give my love to all.

And feel the light of my love around you.



To: Sushree Sohan Bafna, Poona

9/ THE SWEETNESS OF LOVE

Beloved Sohan,

Love. On my return home, I was awaiting your letter.

It came together with the grapes—and the letter which was already very sweet became sweeter.

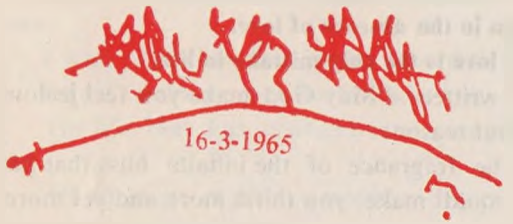
I am happy. Your love increases this happiness all the more. Everyone's love makes this joy infinite.

One body—so much bliss!

But, what else can one do other than to feel jealous of him who feels all bodies to be his!

May God make you feel jealous of me; may all feel this jealousy. This is ever my desire.

Manikbabu too has written endearing words. Give my love to him and a lot more to the children.



To: Sushree Sohan Bafna, Poona

10/ THIS LITTLE WORD — "LOVE"

Beloved Sohan,

I had never imagined that you would write such lovely letters!

And then you say you are illiterate!

There is no knowledge greater than love.

And those who have no love, such unfortunates alone can be illiterate.

The real thing in life is the heart—not the intellect.

For the flowers of bliss and lustre grow only in the heart, not in the mind.

Such a heart you have—and, in abundance.

Can you find a better witness of this than myself?

What is this you have written—that if you have made a mistake, I should point it out?

Love has up to this day never made a mistake in this world.

All mistakes happen in the absence of love.

As I see it, lack of love is the only mistake in life.

That which I had written—"May God make you feel jealous of me"—was not without reason:

It was so that the fragrance of the infinite bliss that has flowered within me would make you thirst more and yet more: that was the reason.

Queen of Mewar! There was no reason for you to worry.

My love to Manikbabu and the children.

To: Mrs. Sushree Sohan Bafna, Poona

11/ THE THIRSTY AWAITING — OF LOVE

Beloved Sohan,

Received your letter.

I was awaiting it from the day I returned.

But waiting is—oh! so sweet!

Life itself is an awaiting!

Seeds wait to blossom, and rivers, to be one with the ocean

What does man wait for?

He too is the seed of some tree, a river for some ocean!

Whenever anyone looks within himself, he finds that **the thirst to reach some infinite and boundless horizon is his very being.**

And he who recognizes this first begins his journey Godwards.

For, is it possible to be thirsty and not to look for water?

This has never been and never will be!

Where there is longing, the thirst for attainment is invariably there.

I want to awaken each person toward this thirst.

I want to change each one's life into an awaiting.

The life that has changed into a longing for God is the real life.

All other use of life is a waste, a dissipation—a misfortune.

Love to Manikbabu.

To: Sushree Sohan Bafna, Poona

12/ THE TOTALITY OF LIFE

My Beloved,

Love, I am deeply grateful for your loving letter.
I consider life as a WHOLE.
And, I am incapable of viewing it in bits and parts.
It is, verily THE WHOLE.
And because to this day it has been viewed in parts, it has become deformed.
There is neither politics nor moral behaviour nor virtue.
Life alone IS.
God alone IS—an entire WHOLE.
He has to be recognized in all His forms.
He has to be sought and lived in all His forms.
Therefore, I shall continue to speak on all aspects of life.
And this is only the beginning.
To answer the editors is only preparing the ground.
But from all aspects, the journey is toward Him.
To understand this Truth, friends might take some time.
As it is, it is unavoidable that Truth must take some time to be understood.
But the seekers of Truth are never afraid.
Fearlessness is the first condition in the quest for Truth.
Remember, as long as spirituality does not embrace life in its totality, it proves impotent.
Only escapists take shelter behind it.
Spiritual knowledge has to be turned into a power.
Spiritual knowledge has to be turned into a revolution.
Then alone can spirituality be saved.
My regards to all.

To: Sri M.T. Kamdar, Sri Suresh B. Joshi, Sri Nanubhai and Sri Karelia, Bhavnagar, Gujarat

(When Bhagwan began to speak on the various aspects of life, some friends from Bhavnagar requested that he speak only on religion and metaphysics. The above letter is a reply to this).

13/ DO NOT SWIM—FLOAT

My Beloved,

Love. Your letter has been received.
I am always with you.
Be not anxious.
Be not sad.
Leave your spiritual practice also in the hands of God.
Whatever His Will.
Be like a dry leaf.
Let the winds take you wherever they will.
Is this not what is meant by the Void?
Do not swim—just float.
Is this not what is meant by the Void?
My regards to all.

To: Sushree Om Prakash Agarwal, Jullundur, Punjab

14/ JUMP — INTO THE VOID

My Beloved,

Love. I am happy to receive your letter.

Truth is unknown, and therefore the known has to be abandoned in order to attain it.

On freeing oneself from the banks of the known, one gains access to the Ocean of the Unknown.

Gather courage and jump!

In the Void—in the great Void.

For that is the abode of God.

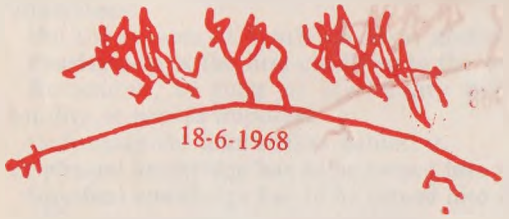
Love to all.

Or to One alone!

Ah! For He alone IS.

He is in all.

He is in everything, even in the Void.



To: Sushree Omprakash Agarwal, Jullundur, Punjab

15/ LIFE—A LINE DRAWN ON THE WATER

My Beloved,

Love. Received your letter.

The time of birth will have to be looked up.

The day, perhaps, is Eleventh December. But this too is not certain.

But tell the astrologer friend not to worry.

The future is bound to come. Thus, one should not worry about it.

Let ANYTHING happen; ultimately it is all the same.

Dust returns unto dust.

And life disappears like a line drawn on the water.

My regards to all there.

(This letter was written to the foregoing, as he had asked Bhagwan for the date and time of his birth on the advice of an astrologer friend).

To: Shree Anupchand Shah, Surendranagar, Gujarat

16/ AWAITING

Beloved Jaya,

Love. I have received your letter.

I know very well the thirst of your soul. And, the moment is not far when it can be quenched.

You are right at the brink of the lake.

You have only to open your eyes.

And I see—the eyelids are about to open.

I will be with you then—always with you—so do no worry.

Be patient and wait.

The seed takes its own time to break and blossom.

Give my regards to all.

More when we meet.

To: Sushree Jayavanti Shukla, Junagadh, Gujarat

17/ BY DROWNING ONESELF, TRUTH IS KNOWN

Beloved Self,

I had received your letter.

How lovingly you insist on my writing something.

And here I am—lost in deep silence.

I speak, I work, but within I am surrounded by a constant Void.

There, there is no movement.

Thus, I seem to live two lives at one time.

What drama is this?

But perhaps life itself is a drama.

And this knowledge opens the door to a wonderful freedom.

That which is inactive within action, motionless within motion, and eternal within change—that is the Truth.

That is the Existence.

Real life is in this eternity alone.

Otherwise, there are only currents of dreams.

Verily, the outside is only a dream.

The question is not whether to leave these dreams or not to leave them—but, to be conscious of them.

And everything changes only by becoming conscious of them.

Then the Seer can be seen. The center is changed.

One reaches from matter to consciousness.

What does this knowledge bequeath?

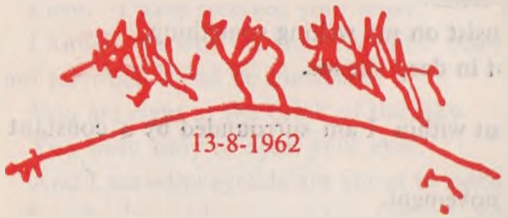
One cannot say: it has never been explained.

It never will be!

There is no other way than to know it oneself.

Death is known only when one dies.

Truth is known only when one dives deep within himself.
That God drown you deep in Truth is my wish.



To: Lala Sunderlal, Delhi

18/ INVESTIGATIONS OF YOGA

Beloved Self,

Salutations. I was very pleased to read your letter.

I am not writing anything at the moment.

A meditation center has been started here, where some friends are experimenting.

When definite results are achieved from these experiments, there is every possibility of writing something.

About my own experiences, I am definitely certain. Yet, I want to test their usefulness on others.

I do not want to write anything in the manner of scriptures; my outlook is scientific.

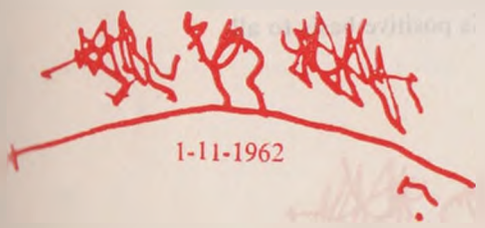
On the basis of psychological and para-psychological experiments, I wish to say something on the subject of yoga.

There are many wrong theories prevailing in this connection. These have to be refuted.

Therefore, I am experimenting on them also.

To my mind, **in this work, there is no giving sanction or support to any sect or organization.**

If you ever come here, we can talk more on this subject.



To Lala Sunderlal, Delhi

19/ NOT ETHICS — BUT THE PRACTICE OF YOGA

Beloved Self,

Salutations. I have just returned from Rajnagar (Rajasthan). I was there invited to a function of Acharya Shree Tulsi's Monastic Order. Four hundred mendicants—male and female—have been made acquainted with Dhyana Yoga in a mass experiment. The results were extraordinary.

My view is that **meditation is the essence of all religious practices.**

All the rest—like non-violence, renunciation of wealth, celibacy, etc.—are but results.

When the completion of meditation—Samadhi (Cosmic Consciousness)—is achieved, these come by themselves.

They develop naturally.

When this basic practice is forgotten, all our efforts become external and superficial.

Religious practice is not merely ethical. It is basically yoga practice.

Ethics alone is negative, and no permanent base can be built on negation.

Yoga is positive and, therefore, is a firm base.

I want to convey this positive basis to all.

To: Lala Sunderlal, Delhi

20/ CARRY OUT THE EXPERIMENT — DO NOT WORRY ABOUT RESULTS

Beloved Self,

Salutations. I was out for the whole month of May, so my health was affected. Therefore, all programmes of Bombay, Calcutta and Jaipur were postponed.

You are experimenting on Samadhi Yoga—I am happy to know this.

Worry not about the results; worry only about the experiment.

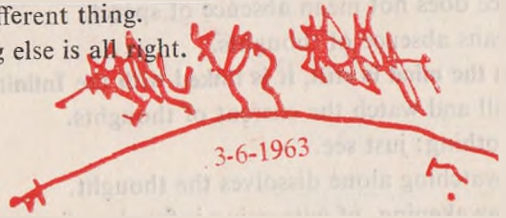
The results are bound to come one day.

Not because of the method. But all of a sudden, without one's knowing, its advent takes place.

Within a moment, life becomes wonderfully different!

I am not writing on Bhagwan Mahavir at present. There is no urge whatsoever within me to write. If your insistence succeeds, it is a different thing.

Everything else is all right.



To: Lala Sunderlal, Delhi

21/ THE AWAKENING OF THE WITNESS

Supreme Being,

Your letters have been received. I was out. Therefore, I could not reply soon. I have just arrived.

A camp was conducted at Ranakpur. It was only for friends from Rajasthan. Therefore, you were not informed. It lasted five days, and some sixty people took part in it.

It was a wonderful success, and great results have been evident. Encouraged by these results, the convenors are thinking of conducting a camp on an all-India basis. You will have to come to that.

I am happy to know that your meditation is progressing.

You have only to be silent.

To be silent is everything.

Silence does not mean absence of speech.

It means absence of thoughts.

When the mind is still, it is linked with the Infinite.

Sit still and watch the current of thoughts.

Do nothing; just see.

This watching alone dissolves the thought.

The awakening of witnessing is freedom from the perversion of thoughts.

In the absence of thoughts, consciousness manifests itself.

This is Samadhi.

Love to all friends.

To: Lala Sunderlal, Delhi

22/ THE DROP IS THE OCEAN

My Beloved,

Love. I am happy to receive your letter.

The drop has not to become the Ocean.

The drop is the Ocean.

It has just to know this.

That which is—however it is—to know it as it is—is Truth.

Truth is salvation.

My love to Jayashree and to others.

(Sri P. Gokani wanted to know whether "The Drop losing itself in the Ocean" meant the loss of individuality for a person, as this does not appeal to the mind).

To: Shree Pushkar Gokani, Dwarka, Gujarat

23/ AWARENESS IN SLEEP

My Beloved,

Love. Be aware in the waking state.

Do not attempt to be awake in sleep or in dream.

As a result of awareness in the waking state, awareness is easily achieved in dream or sleep.

But, for this you have not to do anything.

You only create obstructions if you try to do something for It.

Sleep is the reflection of the waking state.

What we are in the waking state we are in sleep.

If we are asleep in the waking state, then only is sleep "sleep".

The stream of thoughts in the waking state becomes the web of dreams in sleep.

Awareness in the waking state begins to reflect itself in sleep too.

If there are no thoughts in the waking state, dreams disappear in sleep.

Everything else is all right.

My regards to all there.

To: Shree Ghanashyamdas Janmejai, Gwalior, M.P.

24/ BURNING DESIRE

Beloved Self,

Love. During the journey, I read your letter. It has touched my heart.

If your desire to know the Truth of Existence is strong and powerful, then **that which is the longing today will become the fulfillment one day.**

A burning desire is all that is needed. Nothing else is necessary.

As rivers seek out the ocean, so also, man, if he wishes, can attain the Truth.

No heights, no mountains, are obstructions.

Rather, their challenge awakens the sleeping energy within.

Truth is with everyone.

Rivers have to seek the Ocean.

Our ocean is within ourselves. Yet what can one do but wonder at those who remain thirsty and deprived of it?

Actually, they could not have truly desired it.

There is a saying of Christ's: "Ask, and ye shall be given."

But if nobody asks, whose fault is it?

There is no cheaper bargain than attaining God.

We have only to ask—nothing more.

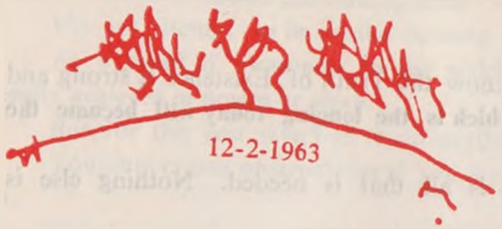
As the demand becomes stronger and stronger, so does the demander depart.

A limit is reached. A point of evaporation is reached where **the demander is completely annihilated and only the demand remains.**

This point is the very point of attainment.

Truth is where the "I" is not.

This experience alone is the "God experience".
The absence of ego is the presence of the real Existence
My regards to all there.



To: Shree Rohit Kumar Mittal, Khandwa, M.P.

25/ PATIENCE IN SADHANA

Beloved Self,

Salutations. I received all your letters in time. As I was very busy, I could not reply earlier. I was out most of the time.

I have just returned after speaking in Jaipur, Burhanpur, Hoshangabad, Chanda, etc.

How thirsty people are for spiritual life!

Seeing this, I am surprised at people who say that man has lost all interest in religion.

This can never be.

Disinterest in religion means disinterest in life, in joy, in immortality.

Consciousness, by nature, is God oriented.

Likewise, it can only be satisfied by attaining "*Satchitananda*" —the Existence–Consciousness–Bliss state of Being.

That which is hidden within one in the form of a seed is the source of the birth of religion.

Therefore, religions will be born and religions will die, but RELIGION is ever eternal.

I am very happy to know that you are progressing patiently toward attaining light.

In spiritual life, patience is most important of all.

How long one has to wait after planting a seed!

At first, it seems all effort is in vain. No results seems to come forth.

Then one day the awaiting turns into attainment.

The seed breaks and sprouts out of the earth, into a sapling.

But remember, when no results were apparent, even then development was taking place under the soil.

The same happens to the seeker of Truth.

When nothing seems to be happening, a great deal is happening.

The Truth is that **all expansions of life-energy are invisible and unknowable.**

The result alone is evident, not the progress.

I am in bliss.

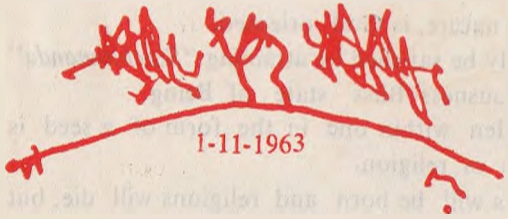
That you may come nearer to God is my wish.

Forget about the attainment; just keep on—on your path. Then of its own, the attainment comes closer.

One day one wonders, "What has happened! What was I! What have I become!"

Compared to the result, all the efforts seem negligible and insignificant.

My love to all.



To: Lala Sunderlal, Delhi

26/ THE DOWNPOUR OF LOVE

Beloved Jaya,

Love. I have received your letter.

Love has not to be asked for. It is never obtained by asking.

Love comes by giving. It is our own echo.

You feel my love pouring on you.

Because, you have become a river of love toward me. And when likewise, your love flows to all, you will find that the whole world has turned into love toward you.

To respond with unconditional love toward all—toward that which is—is the God experience.

To: Sushree Jayati, Junagadh

27/ WHERE THIRST IS, THERE IS THE WAY

Beloved Shirish,

Love. I am happy to see your thirst for God.

This thirst comes only by good fortune, and **where there is thirst the way is.**

In fact, intense longing in itself becomes the way.

God summons every moment, but if the chords of our heart are loose, they cannot echo His call.

If our eyes are closed, even if the sun be at our door there will be darkness for us.

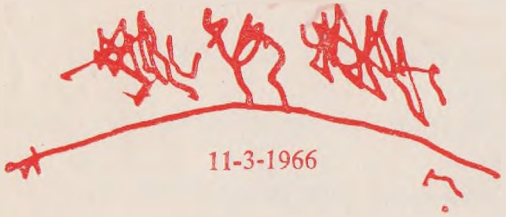
The sun is always at our door.

All that has to be done is to open our eyes to let Him in—nothing more.

May God give you light—this is my wish.

I and my love are always with you.

My regards to all in the family, and love to the children.



To: Sushree Shirish Pai, Bombay

28/ EFFORT AND RESOLUTION FOR SADHANA

Beloved Shirish,

Love. I was very happy to meet you that day.

I felt the tumult in your heart and the longing in your soul.

You have yet not achieved the individual flowering for which you are born.

The seed wants to sprout.

The soil too is ready, and you have not long to wait.

You will have to make the effort and the resolution.

It is only a matter of starting on the journey.

Then God's gravitational force of grace pulls of its own.

To: Sushree Shirish Pai, Bombay

29/ THE INTENSE WILL

Beloved Shirish,

I received your letter on my return.
I welcome the resolution that is taking birth within you.

The intensity of resolution alone takes us up to the Truth.

The hidden powers within can be awakened only by its support.

The disorganized life becomes organized and music is born within.

What enormous energy there is within the atom of the Self!
It cannot be known without the absolute intensity of the will.

Have you ever seen those rocks that the strongest chisel cannot break?

But the sprouting shrub or plant fills it with cracks and crevices so easily.

When the tiniest seed is filled with the will to rise and reach the sun, the hardest of rocks has to give way.

A weak, helpless seed wins over the mighty rocks.

The tender seed breaks open the hardest of rocks. Why?

Because no matter how strong and powerful the rock, it is dead.

Because it is dead, it is without will.

The seed is tender. It is weak—but alive.

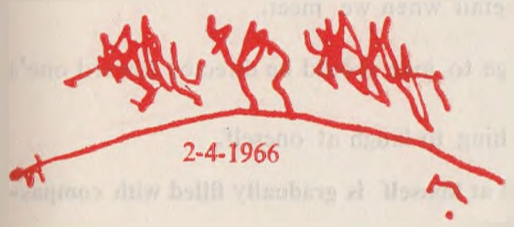
Remember, **life is where there is will.**

Where there is no will, there is no life.

The seed's will becomes its power.

And with this power, its tiny roots enter the rocks and spread out, until one day they break the rock.

Life always wins over death. The living force within has never been lost to the dead obstacles without—and never will be.



To: Sushree Shirish Pai, Bombay

30/ PEACE AND RESTLESSNESS ARE OUR OWN CREATIONS

Beloved Shirish,

Love. You have asked about "sense of humour".
We shall talk in detail when we meet.

First of all, the urge to joke should be directed toward one's own self.
It is a very great thing to laugh at oneself.

The one who laughs at himself is gradually filled with compassion and pity toward others.
In this world, there is no event, no subject to be laughed at as much as one's own self.

About the reality of dreams also, we shall have to talk in detail.
Some dreams are definitely true.
As the mind becomes more and more peaceful, the refulgence of Truth begins to shine in dreams.

Dreams are of four kinds:

(1) Those connected with past lives.

(2) Those connected with future lives.

(3) Those connected with the present life.

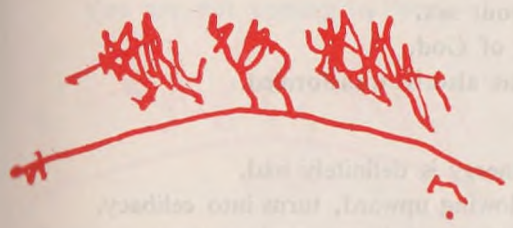
(4) And those connected with suppressed desires.

Contemporary psychology deals only with a fraction of the fourth type.

I am happy to know that your mind is gradually making progress toward tranquillity.
Mind becomes that which we want it to be.

Peace and restlessness are our own creations.

Man becomes bound with the chains that he himself creates.
And, therefore, he is always free to be independent of the mind.



To: Sushree Shirish Pai, Bombay

31/ THE TRANSFORMATION OF SEX ENERGY

Dear Shirish,

Love. Your letter has been received.
You have asked about sex.
That energy too is of God.
With meditation, this also is transformed.
No energy is bad.

But the misuse of energy is definitely bad.
Sex energy, when flowing upward, turns into celibacy.
Aversion toward sex is good, but that alone is not enough.
Positive steps should be taken toward its transformation.
Otherwise, negation alone leaves the mind coarse and dry.

It is very true that you are not alone in your sex life, but basically and deeply the sex desire is not of the body; it is a condition of the mind.

If the mind is totally transformed, the effect starts showing on the other person too.

And one who is so closely associated is more readily influenced.

Till you meet me, keep the following in mind:

1. There should not be any conscious grudge against sex. Cultivated aversion is useless.

2. Keep a wakeful and vigilant attitude, even during the sex act.

Be a witnes in that situation.

If that moment is turned into a moment of meditation and right mindfulness, the sex energy can be successfully transformed.

We shall talk more on this when we meet.

Celibacy is a complete science.

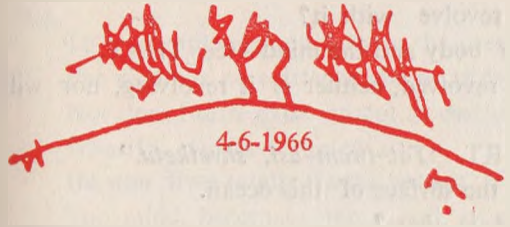
Many vistas of joy unfold themselves as we progress on this path.

Just the same, the very first thing is a friendly attitude toward all the energies of the self.

Enmity toward them does not lead to spiritual revolution but proves suicidal.

Give my regards to all there.

You are not coming to Poona—I shall miss you.



To: Sushree Shirish Pai, Bombay

32/ THE CENTRE OF THE SELF

Dear Shirish,

Love. Your letter.

The wheel of the mundane world keeps revolving.

But why do you revolve with it?

What is within the body and the mind—see THAT.

THAT never has revolved, neither is it revolving, nor will it revolve.

THAT THOU ART. "*Tat–twam–asi, shvetketu.*"

The waves are on the surface of this ocean.

Deep within—what is there?

If the waves are mistaken for the ocean, it is a terrible mistake.

Look at the wheel of a bullock–cart.

The wheel moves—**because the axil does not.**

Remember the axil of your own self.

When standing or sitting, asleep or awake, keep this in mind.

By and by the presence of THE CHANGELESS manifests itself behind all changes.

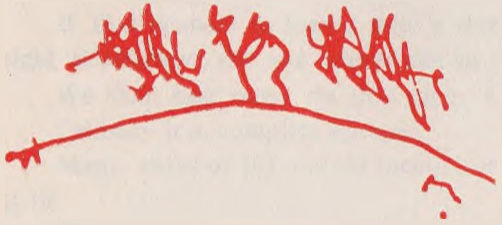
You have asked about the poem.

I had a little bit read out by someone.

Then it came to me: "I should hear it from Shirish herself!"

Now, when you read it out to me, I shall listen.

Then I shall read both you and the poem.



To: Sushree Shirish Pai, Bombay

33/ TOTAL LIVING IN THE PRESENT

Beloved Shirish,

It is good that you are forgetting the past.

An absolutely fresh dimension of life will start through this.

To be completely and fully in the present is freedom.

The past has no existence except as memory.

Nor does future exist except as castles in the air.

What IS, is always present.

He who lives totally in the present lives in God.

The mind becomes empty and peaceful as soon as it is relieved of the past and future.

Its waves subside and then only that remains which is soundless—infinite.

That ocean is the Ocean of Truth.

That your river reaches this Ocean is my wish.

P. S. I shall probably go to Ahmedabad in January. Can you come with me? It will be good if you journey with me for 2 to 4 days.

To: Sushree Shirish Pai, Bombay

34/ THE MELODY OF LOVE

Beloved Shirish,

What gift is greater than love?

And yet you say, "What have I given?"

Oh! **When love is given, there is nothing left to be given—not even the giver!**

For to give love is to give oneself.

You have given yourself. Now where are you?

And having lost yourself, you are bound to find the Shirish you have wanted to attain.

That Shirish has been born.

I am a witness to it.

I have the evidence.

I hear the melody which you will be.

That day, when your heart was close to mine, I heard this melody.

Intellect knows only the present, but for the heart the future too is the present.

To: Sushree Shirish Pai, Bombay

35/ THE INNER COMMUNION

Dear One,

Love. When has communion ever been possible between two persons?

It is just not possible on this earth.

Dialogue seems impossible.

But at times the impossible also happens.

The other day it did.

Meeting you, I felt that communion IS possible.

Also, communication without words.

And the reply came through your tears.

I am deeply grateful for those tears.

Such response is very, very rare.

I have seen your poem "Madhu Shala"—seen it again and again.

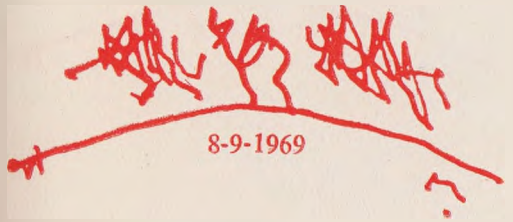
If I could sing, I would sing the same song as is sung there.

Only that **Sannyas which accepts the mundane world with joy do I call Sannyas.**

Is not the world and God really one?

In ignorance there is duality. In knowledge—only ONE.

Ah! Is that religion which cannot sing and dance in love and ecstasy?



P. S. Shiv says you are due to come here. Come soon—very

soon. How can one trust time? See? It is morning and the sun is born! And now, how long before it sets?

To: The Poet Bachchan, Delhi

36/ SILENT EXPRESSION

Beloved Kusum,

Love. Your letter, as pure and virgin as your heart, has filled me with joy.

You want to write that which cannot be written, so you send an unwritten letter.

This too is all right. For that which cannot be expressed is better left unexpressed.

But remember, **silence is very eloquent.**

It speaks and speaks so much!

Silence expresses even that which words cannot.

Void envelopes even that which boundaries cannot. In fact what can remain outside the embrace of the great silence?

Nothing is left unsaid by silence.

Where words are futile, silence is meaningful.

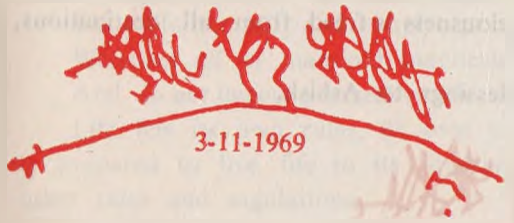
When form reaches the boundary, the Formless begins.

Therefore, Vedanta starts where the Vedas end.

The death of the Vedas is Vedanta.

Freedom from words is the Truth.

Love to Kapil and blessings to Ashish.



To: Sushree Kusum, Ludhiana, Punjab

37/ SURRENDER WITH PRAYER AND AWAITING

Beloved Kusum,

Love. I received your letter on my return.

Like the seed within the soil awaits the rains, you await God.

Prayerful and wholehearted surrender is the door that leads unto Him.

Let yourself go completely just as a boat floats on the river.

You do not have to row the boat; just let it go loose.

You are not to swim, just to float.

Then the river itself takes you to the ocean.

The ocean is very near, but only for those who float and do not swim.

And be not afraid of drowning, for that makes you swim.

The truth is that he who drowns himself in God is saved forever.

And do not entertain the wish to reach somewhere.

For he who wishes to reach somewhere begins to swim.

Remember always—**wheresoever one reaches, that alone is the destination.**

Therefore, he who makes God his destination goes astray.

Wherever the consciousness is freed from all destinations, there alone is God.

Love to Kapil. Blessings to Ashish.

To: Sushree Kusum, Ludhiana, Punjab

38/ THE ACCEPTANCE OF ALL ASPECTS OF EXISTENCE

Beloved Ansuya,

Love. Your letter has filled the heart with joy.

You are at the threshold of a big revolution.

Now, even if you want to run away I will not let you.

You will certainly have to efface yourself.

So that you can emerge as new.

Gold has to pass through fire; then alone is it purified.

Love is fire for you.

That your ego may burn in it is my prayer to God.

And if love comes, prayer can come too.

In the absence of love, prayer is impossible.

And remember, the body and soul are not two different things.

That part of the personality which can be seen is the body.

That which cannot be seen is the soul.

The same holds true for God and matter.

Visible God is matter and invisible matter is God.

Take life naturally and simply, as it comes.

Welcome all its manifold manifestations.

And **do not impose yourself on life.**

Life has its own rules, its own discretions, and he who is prepared to live life in its totality has no need for any other rules and regulations.

But you have always been afraid of life.

Therefore, you are afraid of love.

But now the moment has come when life is penetrating within you, breaking all walls of security. This is God's infinite Grace on you.

Do not run away from it now.
Accept it gratefully.
And my good wishes are always with you.

To: Sushree Ansuya, Bombay

39/ WHERE LOVE IS. PRAYER IS

Beloved,

Love. I have received your letters.

But they are not just letters: they are poems, in fact, born out of love.

Out of love and out of prayer.

For where love is, prayer is.

Therefore, Divinity reflects through the beloved one.

Love bestows those eyes through which God can be seen.

Love is the door through which He reveals Himself.

And when Love becomes all-embracing, He appears in everything.

But there is no difference between the part and the Whole.

The profoundness of deep love for even ONE ultimately embraces ALL.

For love melts the individual, and what remains is the FORMLESS.

Love is like the sun.

The individual is like frozen ice.

The sun of love melts these frozen forms, and what is then left is the boundless ocean.

Therefore, the quest for love is, in reality, the quest for God.

I know that you are melting.

For love melts and love obliterates.

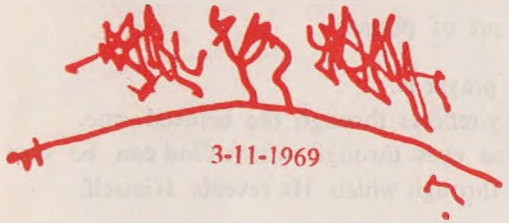
For it is both—birth and death.

The person (ego) is erased and the Absolute takes birth.

And, certainly, there is pain in death as well as in birth!

Therefore, love is a deep affliction.
Of death as well as birth.

But the signs of poetry that arise in you assure me that you have started to experience the joy of love's affliction.



40/ INFINITE AWAITING IS SADHANA

Beloved Kanchan,

Love. It is long since I have received your letter.

You must be tired of waiting for the reply.

But patient awaiting has its own joy.

On the path of God, **infinite awaiting is the real sadhana.**

Awaiting and awaiting and awaiting.

And then, just as the bud blossoms, everything happens of its own.

You are coming to Nargol. Aren't you?

My regards to all.

To: Sushree Kanchan Behu, Bulsar, Gujarat

41/ PRAYERFUL AWAITING IS LOVE

My Beloved,

Love. How happy I am to receive your letter—how shall I say it?

Whenever I saw you, I wondered how long—how long will you keep away from me?

I knew **you had to come closer.**

It was only a question of time.

Therefore, I kept waiting and also praying to God for you.

To me, prayerful awaiting alone is love.

And this also I knew—that you were undergoing the pangs of a new birth and were very near to being reborn.

For, this new birth only could give life to your songs.

Words are forms.

Forms have their own beauty, their own melody, their own music.

But this is not enough.

And he who considers this to be enough remains unsatisfied forever.

Silence is the soul of poetry.

You have come to me, and I want to take you to God.

And, void is the door to the temple of the Divine.

For, without first coming near Him, how could you ever come near me?

In fact, without first coming near Him, one cannot come near one's own self even.

And on approaching Him, that birth takes place for which many births have been taken.

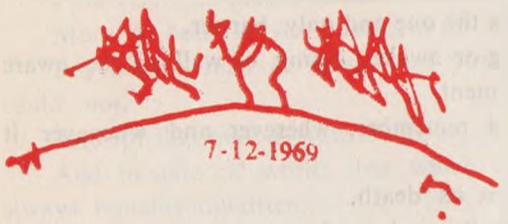
To come near oneself is to be born a second time.

The formula for being "twice-born" is only this.

And, remember, no one is a pebble lying on the road—not

even the pebbles that are on the road. They too await another birth.

For, the "second birth" makes each into a diamond.



P.S. To run after desires is like running after a mirage. It is a journey from one death to another. In the illusion of life, man dies this way time and again. But those who are willing to be dead to their desires discover that death itself is dead for them.

To: Shree Ramkrishan Dikshit ("Vishva"), Jabalpur, M.P.

42/ "I"—A DREAM–A STATE OF SLEEP

Beloved Kanchan,

Love. Your letter and your inquiry.

Where there is "I", there is obstruction.

The "I–attitude" is the one and only barrier.

Therefore, sleeping or awake, sitting or walking, be aware of this "I", every moment.

See, recognize and remember, wherever and whenever it arises.

For its recognition is its death.

It is not the Truth; it is only a dream.

And when one becomes conscious of dreaming, the dream falls apart.

Dreams cannot be renounced.

There is no way of breaking away from that which is not.

It is enough to be conscious of it.

Ego is man's dream—his sleep.

Therefore, those who become involved in renouncing it fall into yet another illusion.

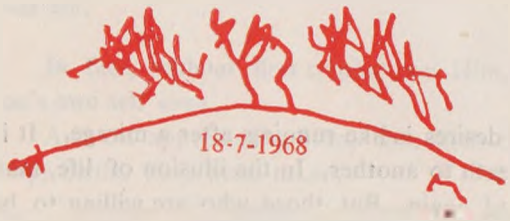
Its humility—its egolessness, is also an illusory dream.

As if someone dreams of being awake in sleep.

Do not become caught in its grip.

Remember only one thing: Awaken and recognize!

Regards to all there.



To: Sushree Kanchan, Bulsar, Gujarat

43/ THE UNWRITTEN LETTER

Beloved Darshan,

Love. Have received your letter.

I am very glad indeed to have received it.

More so because you have sent an unwritten blank paper.

But I have read in it all that you wanted to write but could not.

And for that matter, how much can words convey?

And in spite of words, that which is meant to be written always remains unwritten.

Therefore, your silent letter is very sweet.

As it is, when you come to see me you are always silent.

But your eyes tell all.

And your silence too.

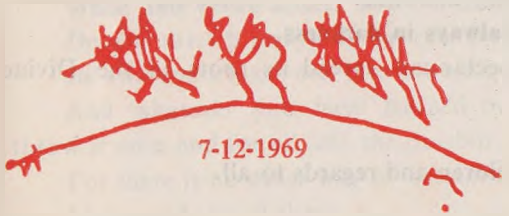
Some deep thirst has touched you.

Some unknown shores are calling you.

Whenever God calls, He calls this way.

But how long will you stand on the brink?

Look, the sun has come out in the heavens and how eager is the breeze to push the sails of the boat!



To: Sushree Darshan Valia, Bombay

44/ THE TRANSCENDENCE OF ANXIETIES

My Beloved,

Love. I am very glad to receive your letter.

There are anxieties in life, but it is not necessary to be anxious.

To be anxious depends not on the anxieties, but on our attitude toward them.

Therefore, an anxious personality or a non–anxious personality is always our own choice.

It is not that a non-anxious mind has no worries.

Anxieties are there.

They are an unavoidable part of life.

But he does not burden himself with them.

He always sees beyond them.

Dark nights surround him too, but his eyes are fixed toward the rising morning sun.

Therefore, his soul is never drowned in darkness.

And only this is enough—that the soul be not drowned in darkness.

The body is bound to drown.

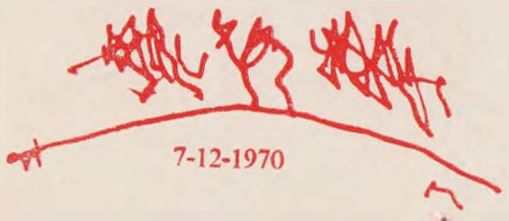
In fact, it is already drowned.

A pessimist lives always in darkness.

Nothing except nectar can spread its roots in the Divine splendour.

Love to Guna.

Blessings to the children and regards to all.



To: Shree Ishwarbhai Shah, Jeevan Jagruti Kendra, Bombay

45/ MEDITATION ON SEX

My Beloved,

Love. I received your letter.

Do not be afraid of sexual desire.

For fear is the beginning of defeat.

Accept it.

It also is, and is unavoidable.

Yes, you must know it and recognize it.

Be conscious of it.

From the unconscious, bring it to the conscious.

You cannot do this by condemning it.

For condemnation is repression.

And repression pushes desire into the unconscious.

In truth, because of repression, the mind is divided into the conscious and the unconscious.

And this division is the cause of all conflict.

This division prevents man from being total.

And without being total, there is no way to tranquillity, bliss and beatitude.

Therefore, meditate on sexual desire.

When this desire arises, observe it mindfully.

Do not drive it away; do not run from it.

Its awareness takes one into a wonderful experience.

And whatever you have learned or heard about celibacy, throw it once and for all into the dustbin.

For there is no other way of attaining celibacy.

My regards to all there.

To: Shree Jayantilal, Bhavnagar, Gujarat

46/ LIVE SPONTANEOUSLY—MOMENT TO MOMENT

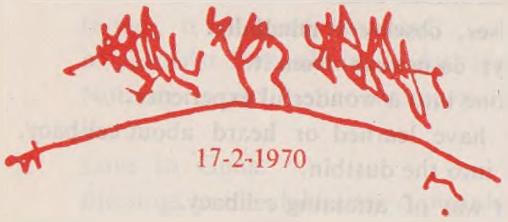
My Friend,

Love. Do not desire bliss.
For that desire is the obstruction in the way.
Live life.
Not being chained to the shores of desire.
Not with an eye to the goal.
Live FREE!
Live from moment to moment!
And be not afraid.
Be not filled with fear.
For there is nothing to lose.
There is nothing to gain.

And the moment you realize this, the totality of life is attained.

But never, even by mistake, approach the gates of life as a beggar.

Never go begging.
For those gates are never open for beggars!



To: Shree Jayant Bhatt, Nargol, Bulsar, Gujarat

47/ DISSOLVE COMPLETELY—INTO NOTHINGNESS

Beloved Ansuya,

Love. You say you feel as if you are "broken".

It would be better if you break completely—turn into Nothingness.

What IS will ever be, but that which has "happened" must dissolve.

Being is the preparation for non–being.
Therefore, do not spare yourself.
One who saves himself is never saved.

The one who turns into Nothingness attains THAT which is beyond creation and destruction.

But what is there to keep back?
And that which is worthy of saving is already saved.

To: Sushree Ansuya, Bombay

48/ THE THIRST FOR GOD

Beloved Kusum,

Love. I have received your letter.

As the soil becomes thirsty for rains after the hot summer, so too are you thirsty for God.

This thirst alone becomes an invitation to His clouds.

And the invitation has reached.

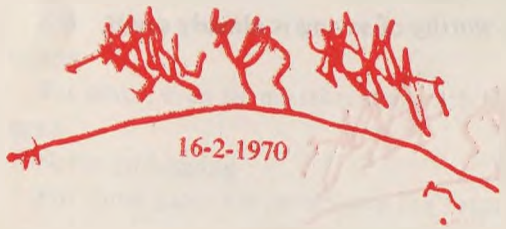
You just keep drowning in meditation.

His grace will definitely pour on you.

If you are ready here, He is forever ready there.

Look! Do you not see His clouds hovering in the skies?

Love to Kapil and blessings to Ashish.



To: Sushree Kusum, Ludhiana

49/ THE LIFE VISION

Dear One,

Love. Repose is the supreme goal. Toil is the medium.

Complete repose, where there is complete freedom from toil, is the supreme goal.

But, life is a drama.

And if there is toil, it is a play.

All civilization is born out of such a play.

Art, philosophy, religion, are the achievments of repose.

This has not been possible for everyone.

But technology and science will make these possible for everyone in the near future.

That is why I am in favour of technology.

Those who attribute an intrinsic value to labour oppose the use of machines.

I impose no such value on labour.

On the contrary, it is a burden.

As long as toil is necessary for repose, it cannot be bliss.

When toil comes as a result of repose, and with one's own consent, then it is, and can be, bliss.

Therefore, I cannot call repose unlawful—a sin.

So then I do not support renunciation either.

I do not wish that one person should live for another, or that one generation should make a sacrifice for another.

Such sacrifices turn out to be very costly. **One who makes such sacrifices begins to expect inhuman rewards in return.**

The reason for a father's impossible expectations of his son is this alone.

Then if each father lives for his son, who will be able to live for himself? For every son is a potential father.

No, I wish that each person should live for himself—for his

own happiness, for his comfort.

When the father is happy, he does a lot more for his son - and with the greatest of ease.

All this happens because of the father being happy.

This is neither "sacrifice" nor "renunciation".

This is the whole pleasure of being a father.

Then he has no inhuman expectations from his son.

And where there is no pressure of expectations, expectations are fulfilled.

And this fulfillment comes because of the son being a son.

In short, **I teach each person to be selfish.**

The education of unselfishness has taught nothing but suicide to mankind.

And a man with suicidal tendencies is always dangerous to others.

An unhappy person distributes his sorrow to others.

I am also against the sacrifice of the present for the future.

For what is, is in the present.

Live in it totally, and the future will be born out of it.

But when it comes, it will again be the present.

And he who has gotten into the habit of sacrificing the present for the future, for him there is no future.

For that which is coming is always sacrificed for that which has yet to come.

And, finally, you have asked why I too am toiling for others and for the future.

First of all, I do not toil.

Whatever I do is a flow of my repose.

I do not swim; I only float.

And no one ever can do anything for another.

But if something HAPPENS to others because of what I am,

that is a different thing.

In that too **I am not the doer.**

And about the future?

For me, the present alone is everything.

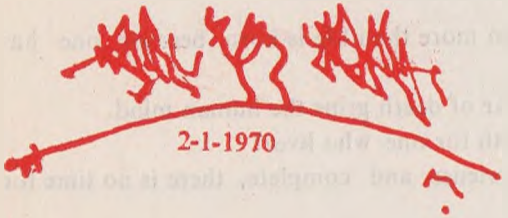
The past too the present—that has passed away.

The future too is the present—that is yet to come.

And life is ever here and now. Therefore, I do not worry about past and future.

And the wonder of wonders! Ever since I have stopped worrying about them, they have begun to worry about me!

My regards to all there.



To: Shree Yashwant Mehta, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

50/ LIFE IS PURPOSELESS

Dear Mathura Babu,

Love. Your letter has been received.

Why do you seek for a purpose at all?
If you seek, you will never find it.
For it is forever hidden in the seeker.

Life is without a purpose.
Life is its own purpose.
Therefore, he truly lives who lives without a purpose.
Live! And is just living not enough?

The desire to attain more than life is born because one has not at all lived.

That is why the fear of death grips the human mind.

Where is there death for one who lives?

Where living is intense and complete, there is no time for fear of death.

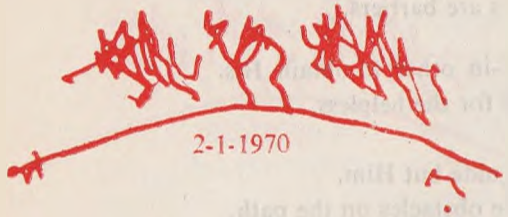
There, there is no time for death either.

Do not think in the language of "purpose."
That language itself is diseased.
The sky is purposeless.
God is without purpose.
Flowers bloom without a purpose.
And stars shine without a purpose.
What has poor man done that he cannot live without a purpose!

Because man can think, he gets into trouble.
A little thinking always leads to trouble.
If you must think, think "completely", fully!
Then the mind whirls fast with thoughts, and freedom from

thoughts is attained.

Then you begin to live.



To: Shree Mathura Babu (Swami Ananda Maitreya), Bihar

51/ EMPTINESS IS THE DOOR, THE PATH, THE DESTINATION

Dear One,

Love. All crutches are barriers.

Shun all supports—in other to obtain His.
He is the only help for the helpless.

There is no other guide but Him.
All other guides are obstacles on the path.
Save yourself from all teachers if you want to attain the Master.

Be not afraid to "empty" yourself.
For that alone is the door.
That alone is the path.
And, that alone is the destination.

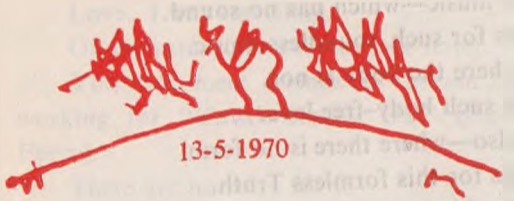
The courage to be empty is the only qualification for being "the Total".
Those who are full remain empty.
And those who are empty are filled.
Such are His mathematics.

Do not think of doing anything.
By "doing", He cannot be attained.
Not by the repetition of mantras, not by austerity.
For He is forever attained.
Pause and see.

To do is to run.
Not to do is to pause.

Ah! if He were far, then we could have run to meet Him.
But He is nearer than the nearest.

Ah! that Hewer lost so that He could be found!
But when have we ever lost Him?



To: Shree Ramakant Upadhyaya, Kathmandu, Nepal

52/ THE SOUL'S RESTLESSNESS

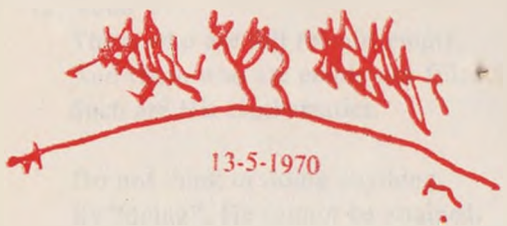
Beloved Kusum,

Love. There is a music—which has no sound.
The soul is restless for such soundless music.
There is a love—where the body is not.
The soul pines for such body-free love.
There is a Truth also—where there is no form.
The soul ever longs for this formless Truth.
Therefore, **melodies do not satisfy.**
That is **why bodies do not satisfy.**
And "forms" cannot fulfill the soul.

But this unfulfillment, this dissatisfaction, has to be understood properly.

For this understanding ultimately brings about the Transcendence.

Then melody becomes the door to the Soundless.
Body becomes the path to the Bodiless.
And form becomes the Formless.



To: Sushree Kusum, Ludhiana

53/ THE REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH FORCE

Dear One,

Love. I was travelling.
On my return, I received your letter.

You can meet friends of Jeevan Jagruti Kendra and begin working for "Yuvak Kranti Dal" (the Revolutionary Youth Force).

There are no rules for it.
There can never be rules for revolution.

There should be an awakening of thought among youth, and scientific studies should replace blind faith.

This is all I desire.
Do meet me when I come this time to Indore.
All else is well. My regards to all there.

To: Shree Dinesh Shahi. Indore, M.P.

54/ LIFE IS INSECURE—PATTERNLESS

Beloved Jayati,

Love. I am happy to receive your letter.

So much suffering has to be undergone. These are the pangs—**the pangs of giving birth to the Self.**

And it is not possible to go back.

And where does that past remain to which we can return?

Time always brings down the steps with which we climb into the present.

There is no return. Only going forward is possible.

Forward and forward.

And endless is this journey!

There is no shelter, no destination.

There are only momentary halts.

The tents are pulled down no sooner they are set up.

But why this fear of anarchy?

Systems as such are false.

Life is patternless—insecure.

He who wants to be secure dies before his death.

But why this haste to die?

Death itself will do that for us. Then is it not right that we learn to live?

And the miracle is that **death forgets the door of the person who learns to live.**

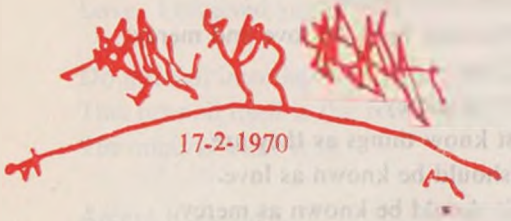
For this alone is essential.

Doesn't the gardener wait patiently after sowing the seed?

Whenever you need me, you will find that I am always with you.

Love to the Doctor.

Regards to all there.

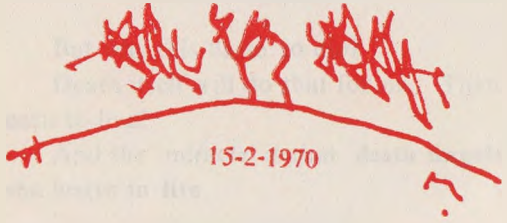


To: Sushree Jayati, Junagadh

55/ THE TWO SIDES OF LOVE: SEX AND COMPASSION

Dear One,

Love. Have received your letter.
There is a great difference between love and mercy.
There is mercy in love.
But there is no love in mercy.
Therefore, we must know things as they are.
If there is love, it should be known as love.
If there is mercy, it should be known as mercy.
To know and explain one for the other is giving rise to unnecessary anxieties.
Ordinarily, love has become almost impossible.
For man as he is today cannot be in love.
To be in love, it is essential that the mind be totally empty.
And we love only with our minds.
Therefore, when our love is at its lowest it is sex, and at its highest it is compassion.
Therefore, understand things as they are.
And do not strive for that which SHOULD be.
Acceptance and understanding of that which is gives birth to that which should be.
Love to Leena. Blessings to Tukkan.



To: Dr. M. R. Gautam, Benares, U.P.

56/ TOTAL ACCEPTANCE IS THE DOORWAY TO GOD

Dear One,

Love. I received your letter.

Do not fall into the turmoil of quietening the mind.
This turmoil itseif is the restlessness.
The mind is what it is.

Accept it as such.
This acceptance brings tranquillity.
Non-acceptance is restlessness.

Acceptance is peace.
And he who reaches total acceptance attains the Almighty.
There is no other way than this.

Understand this well.
For this understanding brings acceptance.
Acceptance is not our will.
Resolve in itself is non-acceptance.
Non-acceptance hides behind "I am doing this".
For resolve is the ego.

Ego cannot exist unless fed on non-acceptance.
Therefore, acceptance cannot be brought about.
The understanding of life brings about acceptance.

Look—look at life.
What is IS.
It is as it is.
Things are such.
Ask not for otherwise, for it cannot be even if desired.

Desire is very impotent.

Ah! And where there is no desire can there ever be restlessness?

Love to Leena; Blessings to Tukkan.

To: Dr. M. R. Gautam, Benares, U.P.

57/ DO NOT THINK: LOOK—JUST LOOK

Dear One,

Love. Do not fight with yourself.
You are—as you are.
Do not strive to change.

Do not swim in life—just float.
As a dry leaf in the river.
Keep away from sadhanas (practices)—mere sadhanas.
This alone is sadhana.

Where is one to go?
What is one to become?
Who is to be attained?
What is, is here and now.
Please wait and see.

What instinct is known as an animal instinct?
What is low? What is high?
Whatever is, is.
There is nothing high, nothing low.
What is of the animal?
What is of the Divine?

Therefore, do not condemn; do not praise.
Do not accuse yourself; do not praise yourself.
All differences are of the mind.

In Truth, there are no differences.
There God and the animal are one and the same.
Heaven and Hell are two sides of the same coin.
The "mundane world" and "Liberation" are two expressions of the same Unknown.

And do not ponder over what I have said.

If you ponder, you miss.
See—just see.

To: Swami Mohan Chaitanya, Moga, Punjab

58/ SEPARATION, THIRST, LONGING AND TEARS

Dear One,

Love. The feeling of separation is auspicious.
Thirst is auspicious; longing is auspicious.
For through the path of tears, His advent takes place.
Cry so much that only tears remain and not you.
If tears alone remain and the one who cries vanishes, the Ultimate comes by itself to the door.
That is why I let you go and did not stop you.
I knew you would be sorry.
Repentance is essential.
I knew you would cry.
But tears have their usefulness.
Is there a more profound prayer than tears?
Love to Ravi.
Love to Om.
Love to Kanchan and Madhu.

To: Shree Sunderlal Sehgal, Amritsar, Punjab

59/ THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF LIFE

Dear Ramchandra,

Love. You have asked for my Ten Commandments.
It is very difficult.
Because, I am against any sort of commandment.
Yet, just for the fun of it, I write as follows:

1. Obey no command unless it is a command from within.
2. There is no God other than life itself.
3. **Truth is within. Seek not elsewhere.**
4. Love is prayer.
5. Emptiness is the doorway to Truth. Emptiness is the means, the destination, the attainment.
6. Life is—here and now.
7. **Live—fully awake.**
8. Do not swim—float.
9. **Die each moment so that you grow anew each moment.**
10. Search not; That Which Is, IS. Stop—and see.

To: Dr. Ramchandra Prasad, Patna University, Patna, Bihar

60/ THE ART OF CONQUERING TRUTH— TOTAL SURRENDER

Dear One,

Love. Be not in haste.
Very often, haste becomes the cause of delay.
Add patient awaiting to your thirst.
The deeper the awaiting, the quicker is the result.

You have sown the seed. Now sit in the shade and see what happens.
The seed will break, it will blossom, but you cannot hasten the process.

Everything needs time—doesn't it?
Toil you must, but leave the result to God.
Nothing is ever wasted in life.
And the step taken toward Truth—never!

But at times, impatience does become an obstruction.
With thirst comes impatience.

But save the thirst and take leave of impatience.
Do not mistake thirst and impatience to be one and the same.

In thirst there is quest, but no struggle.
In impatience there is struggle, but no quest.

In longing there is an awaiting, but no demand.
In impatience there is demand, but no awaiting.

In thirst, there are silent tears.
In impatience, there is restless struggle.

Truth cannot be invaded.

It is attained not by struggle but by surrender.
Its conquest lies in total surrender.

Love to Madhu.

To: Shree Babu Bhai Shah, Ajol, Gujarat

61/ AWARENESS OF DEATH

Dear Mathura Babu,

Love. I received your letter. I am happy to know that your mother's death reminded you of your own.

Only through the awareness of death is the attainment of immortality possible.

The blow of death is very deep, but the human mind cunningly evades it.

Do not evade the issue.
Do not console yourself.
Any consolation is akin to suicide.

Let the wounds of death be deep enough.
Awake, and live with these wounds.

This living will be very difficult.
But without difficulty there is no revolution.

Death is.
It is always with us.
But we try to forget it.

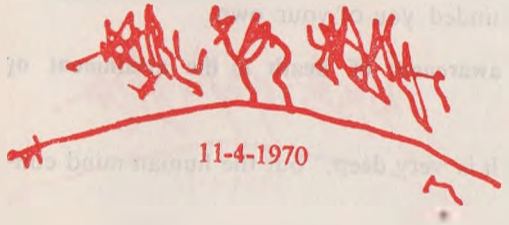
Death is every day—every moment.
But we remain unmindful of it.

This is the reason why we have no knowledge of this life either.

In trying to escape death, man also fails to live.
For both of these are two sides of the same coin.
For both of these are two wheels of the same cart.

To him who knows them as such, they are the same.

This oneness of life and death is the real existence.
To be in this Existence is beatitude.



To: Shree Mathura Prasad Mishra (Swami Ananda Maitreya)
Patna

62/ THE QUEST FOR THE MEANING

Dear one,

Love. **The quest for meaning is absurd.**

It is the quest for meaning that has led to meaninglessness.

He who realizes that there is no meaning reaches to the ultimate meaning.

For then, meaninglessness is not possible.

Nor is misinterpretation possible.

Then whatever is, is meaningful.

And there, is no difference even if there is no meaning.

Then in fact, what is, IS and what is not, IS NOT. And there is no question of else or otherwise.

You have asked for a clearer explanation of "Motivelessness".

If you try to "understand", it will never be clear to you.

For the possibility of understanding is only with a purpose!

Why do you want to get involved in understanding?

Look! Isn't everything so clear before you?

Everything is open! Everything is clear!

But man is busy in interpretations!

Then who is to see that which is manifest before us—and so clear!

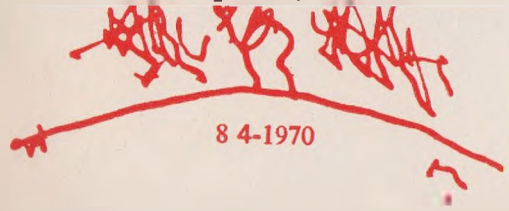
The endeavour to understand causes complications.

Ignorance lies in the very endeavour to know.

Try neither to understand nor to know,

Then how will it be hidden—that WHICH IS!

Truth is forever there, naked and clear.



To: Pushparaj Sharma, Simla

63/ AWAKE AND SEE—"I" IS NOT THERE

Dear Mayaji,

My love to you. I am happy to receive your letter.

The "I" has not to be given up.

For how can that which is not be discarded?

"I" has to be understood—investigated.

Just as one would take a lamp and search for darkness, and the darkness vanishes!

Darkness cannot be removed, for it does not exist.

Only a lamp has to be lit.

Light disproves the existence of darkness.

Similarly, do not fight with your thoughts.

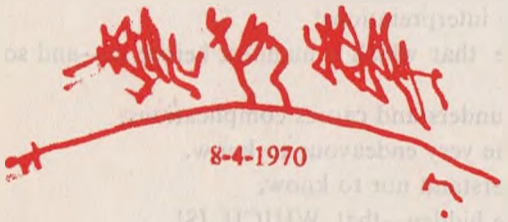
The endeavour to be thoughtless is also a thought.

Be conscious of thoughts—be aware of them, be a witness to them.

Then they quieten down—without any difficulty.

The attitude of awareness ultimately leads to the Void.

Where there is Void, the Absolute IS.



To: Mrs. Mayadevi Jain, Chandigarh, Punjab

64/ SEEK—SEEK—AND SEEK

Beloved Kusum,

Love. Seek—seek—and seek.

So much, that in the end the seeker is lost.

That is the meeting point for HIM.

Here the "I" is lost—there, He is.

There never is and never was any wall in between except for the "I".

Love to Kapil.

Blessings to Asheesh.

To: Sushree Kusum, Ludhiana

65/ THE LYRE OF THE SOUL

Dear One,

Love, Ah, if the flute were without, the music could have been heard!

But it is within, so the music does not reach our ears.

Yes—one can "become" music.

Besides, what worth has such music that ends with listening?

For sure, the musician, the flute, the music, the listener, these are not separate!

Look within.

Go within.

And see WHO is there awaiting for you?

To: Shree Jayantilal Vyas, Udaipur

66/ DREAMS—OF CLOSED AND OPEN EYES

Beloved Guna,

Love. Dreams also are true.

For is that which we call Truth anything more than a dream?

What is the difference except that of closed and open eyes?

Understand this well.

Then alone one can go beyond both.

The way lies beyond both.

Both are sceneries and beyond both is the observer.

Love to Ishwar Babu.

Blessings to the children.

To: Sushree Guna Shah, Bombay

67/ QUEST FOR THE SOLUTION

Beloved Rekha,

Love. I received your letter.

You have asked so many questions! I will have to write a book bigger than the Mahabharat to answer them!

And yet, you will not get the answers.

For there are some questions that cannot be answered by others.

One has to search for the answers deep within one's own life.

And there are some questions that have no answers at all.

For those questions are wrong.

Answers to such questions are never found.

But one thing is certain—in constant quest, the questions gradually drop out.

Then there are some questions which are all right as questions, but which have no answers at all.

They can only be known by diving deep within the Innermost.

To: Kumari Rekha, Rajkot, Gujarat

68/ TRUTH IS FOREVER ON THE CROSS

Beloved Jayati,

Love. I received your letter.

Ah! Do not ever be worried about me.

For two reasons:

First, since the day I surrendered myself unto the hands of the Divine, I have transcended all anxieties.

In fact, ego alone is anxiety.

Beyond it, what worry! Who worries and for whom?

Secondly, **persons like me are born for the Cross.**

That is our throne.

When stones are showered, not flowers, only then is our mission done.

But on the path of the Divine, even stones turn into flowers.

And on the opposite path even flowers ultimately prove to be stones.

Therefore, when stones rain on me, be happy and thankful to the Divine.

Truth is forever welcomed this way.

If your heart does not believe, ask Socrates?

Ask Jesus?

Ask Buddha?

Ask Kabir?

Ask Meera?

My regards to all.

To: Sushree Jayati, Junagadh

69/ STRONG DETERMINATION

Dear One,

Love. The springs of meditation are nearby.

But the inhibitions of suppressed sex are acting like hard rocks.

It is this suppression of sex that has filled your life with anger.

The smoke of anger has pervaded every pore of your individuality.

When you sat in meditation before me the other day, I saw all this very clearly.

But I could also see that your resolve too is very strong.

Your thirst is also very powerful and you are making a mighty effort.

Therefore, there is no reason to be disheartened.

Difficulties are there. The rocks are there, but these will break —for the breaker is yet not broken.

Make an all–out effort in meditation.

The streams will soon be reached.

For this, you will have to put your whole being at stake.

Not an iota less will do.

A slight withholding, and everything can be lost.

Time is running out; therefore, gather together all your strength.

The resolve should be complete so that the opportunity is not lost.

It is difficult to say in which birth such opportunity will come again.

Therefore, everything is to be completed in this life only.

If the gates remain unopened, everything has to begin from the very beginning in the next birth.

Besides, my association is not certain.

You had toiled in your last life, but that was half done.

And the same had happened in the life before that.

Since the last three lives, you are repeating the same cycle over and over again.

Now you should break this cycle.

It is already too late.

It is not wise to delay any longer.

My regards to all.

To: Lala Sunderlal, Delhi

70/ THE MELODY OF FREEDOM

Beloved Jayati,

Love. The temple of the Lord can only be entered by a dancing, singing, happy heart.

A sad heart has no access to it.

Therefore, avoid depression.

Fill your mind with the beauty of colours.

It should be as colourful as the peacock's feathers.

And without reason.

He who has a reason to be happy is not happy at all.

Dance and sing.

Not for someone.

Not for some reason.

Dance only for the sake of dancing.

Sing only for the sake of singing.

Then the whole life becomes Divine.

Such life alone is a prayer to God.

To be so is to free.

Love to the Doctor.

I have recived his letter.

To: Sushree Jayati, Junagadh

71/ THE FIRE OF LOVE

Beloved Jayati,

Love. God purifies in every way.

Not gold alone, but man too has to pass through fire to become pure.

The anguish of love is the fire for the individual.

It is by good fortune alone that the fire of love enters the life of a person.

It is the fruit of infinite prayers—of infinite births.

It is the intensified thirst that turns ultimately into love.

Alas, there are but few who can really welcome it!

For there are very few who recognize love in the form of anguish.

Love is not the throne—it is the Cross.

But those who gladly offer themselves for crucifixion attain the highest throne.

The Cross is visible, the throne is not.

It is forever hidden behind the Cross.

For a moment, even Jesus had faltered!

Even his heart had cried out, "Father, why hast thou forsaken me?"

But the next moment he remembered and he said, "Thy will be DONE."

That was enough. The Cross turned into a throne and death into a new life.

In that moment of revolution between these two expressions, Christ descended into Jesus.

Anguish is in abundance and a new birth is at hand.

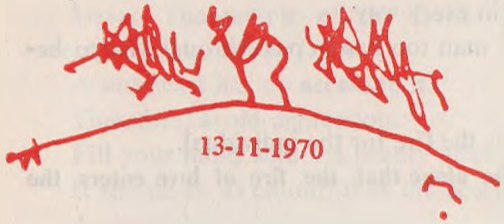
Be happy, be grateful.

Be not afraid of death—be thankful.

It is the tiding of a new birth.

The old must die to give birth to the new.

The seed must break to blossom into the bud.
Love to the Doctor.



To: Sushree Jayati, Junagadh, Gujarat

72/ THE PINNACLE OF THOUGHTS

Dear One,

Love. Thought is the power of man.

And this power has been snatched away from him by blind faith.

That is why man has become weak and impotent.

Think as much as you can.

Think tirelessly.

The wonder of wonders is that **the state of thoughtlessness is achieved only at the pinnacle of thoughts.**

It is the culmination of thoughts.

Therefore, in that state, even thoughts prove useless.

Truth is in this silence.

To: Sushree Premshanker Panday, Manmad, Maharashtra

73/ DO NOT SEARCH—LOSE YOURSELF

Dear Satyanand,

Love and my blessings.

Live in Truth—there is no other way of knowing Truth.

Become Truth—for Truth is known only by becoming Truth.

Truth is not found in words.

Nor in scriptures.

Nor even by study, learning or understanding.

Truth is within oneself—in the Void within oneself.

In the state of thoughtlessness, in the desireless mind **where consciousness alone is, is the advent of Truth.**

Truth always is.

It has not to be attained.

It has only to be uncovered.

The golden cover that covers it is one's own ego.

Ego is darkness.

Efface yourself and be illumined.

Where the darkness of the ego is not, in that realm of Void. TRUTH IS.

That is Truth.

That is Bliss.

That is immortality.

Do not search—rather, lose yourself for it, and attain it.

To: Yogi Satyanand, Tikamgadh, M.P.

74/ SPEECHLESS, DEMANDLESS SELF-SURRENDER

Dear Lalita,

Love. That which the heart seeks, it always attains.

Mind, when condensed, turns into matter.

As the river finds the Ocean, so thirsty hearts find the temple of God.

Only, intense thirst is required.

Only, tireless resolve is required.

Only, endless awaiting is needed.

Only, a full-hearted call is necessary.

And all this—thirst, resolve, awaiting, crying—is contained in one small word.

That word is—prayer.

But **prayer cannot be said.**

It is not an act.

You can only be in it.

It is a condition.

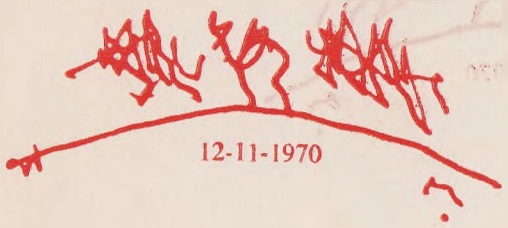
It is the soul.

It is a silent, speechless, demandless self-surrender.

Leave yourself in the hands of the Unknown.

Accept whatever comes.

Let HIM make you—or, break you.



To: Kumari Lalita Rathor, Fatehabad, M.P.

75/ THE SONG OF THE SOUL

Dear One,

Love. As the birds welcome the sunrise each morning with their songs—so is the life-breath filled with music at the dawning of meditation.

As flowers bloom in Spring, so also the soul is surrounded with a thousand fragrances at the coming of meditation.

And as rains turn everything green, so also does the rain of meditation fill the consciousness with a myriad of colours.

All this, and much more, takes place.

But this is only the beginning, not the end.

Ultimately, all is lost.

Perfume, colour, light, music—everything disappears.

The inner Space manifests like the skies.

Empty, Silent, Formless.

Wait for that.

Long for that.

The signs are good. Therefore, do not waste a moment.

Proceed. I am always with you.

To: Shree Rajendra R. Anjaria, Ahmedabad

76/ FIRST SEEK YE THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Dear One,

Love. God's work alone is my work.

Besides this, there is neither me nor mine.

There is no other work besides HIS.

Live in God—that is all; the rest happens by itself.

Jesus has said: **"First seek ye the Kingdom of God. Then all else will be added unto you."**

I say likewise.

But the mind of man seeks everything else first.

Then that happens which is bound to happen.

Nothing else is gained—on the contrary, he loses whatever he had.

To: Shree Kedar Sehgal, Neemuch, M.P.

77/ TURN LIFE INTO A DANCE

Beloved Neelam,

Love. Do not look for a purpose in life.
Rather, live—live wholeheartedly.
Do not make life solemn and grave.
Turn it into a dance!
Dance—as the waves dance on the sea!
Bloom—as the flowers bloom in spring!
Sing—as the birds sing all the time!
Without a purpose—without a cause!
Then all purpose manifests itself.
Then all the mysteries solve themselves.

The famous physician Rocky Tonsky once asked a student: "What is the purpose of life? What is its meaning?"

The student faltered and said, as if recollecting, "Sir, till yesterday I knew, but right now, I just cannot recollect."

Rocky Tonsky looked up at the skies and cried: "God in heaven! The only man who ever knew and he also has forgotten!"

Love to all the family.

To: Sushree Neelam Amarjeet, Ludhiana

78/ PRAYER IS—WHERE THERE IS NO COMPLAINT

Dear One,

Love. Once the "I" is surrendered, there is no suffering, no pain.

For basically, the "I" is the cause of all unhappiness.

And the moment it is known that God alone is everything, there is no cause for complaint.

Where there is no complaint, there alone is prayer.
That alone is the attitude of gratefulness.
That alone is the belief in the existence of God.
In this belief, His Grace pours.
Be a believer and know.
But it is most difficult to become a believer.
There is no penance greater than accepting life in its totality.

To: Shree Sardari Lal Sehgal, Amritsar

79/ OPEN YOUR EYES AND SEE

Beloved Kusum,

Love. The mundane world is the Ultimate Liberation,
Mantras are mere sounds.
And man is sheer God.
Well, **everything depends on one's own vision.**
Creation is nothing but one's own perception.
See—open your eyes and see.
Where is darkness?
There is only light.
Where is death?
There is only immortality.
Love to Kapil.
Blessings to Asheesh.

To: Sushree Kusum, Ludhiana

80/ SURRENDER—SURRENDER —AND SURRENDER

Beloved Savitri,

Love. Do not expect results in meditation.
This causes obstructions.
Also, do not desire the repetition of any experience in meditation.
For this brings unnecessary hindrances.
Take care that in meditation there be nothing but meditation.
The rest then comes to pass by itself.
Leave yourself in the hands of God.
The journey to the Infinite is not in our hands.
Surrender—Surrender—Surrender!
Keep surrender in mind.
Sleeping or awake—always.
Surrender is the only door-way to Him.
Emptiness is the only boat that sails to Him.

To: Dr. Savitri C. Patel, Bulsar, Gujarat

81/ WHY SO MUCH OF SUFFERING IN LIFE?

Dear One,

Love. Why is there so much suffering in man's life?

Because, in his life there is a throng of sounds.

But, **soundless music**—not at all.

Because, in his life, there is a flood of thoughts.

But **Thoughtless Silence**—not at all.

Because, in life, there is a commotion of feelings.

But **an emotionless state**—not at all.

Because, in his life, there is a mad rush in all directions.

But a **pause in the Unknown**—not at all.

And, finally, because in his life man himself is there too much.

But God—not at all.

To: Shree Shiv, Jabalpur

82/ WITHOUT DOUBT, HOW WILL YOU SEARCH?

Dear One,

Love. Without doubt, how will the search begin?

If there is no doubt, how will the heart become restless to know and attain Truth?

Remember, faith and belief bind a man.

Doubt liberates him.

To: Shree Shiv, Jabalpur

83/ DIE TO LIVE

Dear One,

Love. I say: "Die, so that you can be."
When the seed destroys itself, it becomes the tree.
When the drop loses itself, it becomes the ocean.
But man—he refuses to lose himself.
Then how can God manifest in him?
Man is the seed, God is the tree.
Man is the drop. God is the Ocean.

To: Shree Shiv, Jabalpur

84/ THE DUST OF KNOWLEDGE ON INTUITION

Dear One,

Love. Life is an infinite mystery.

Therefore those who are filled with knowledge—they are deprived of life.

Life is known only to those who are simple.

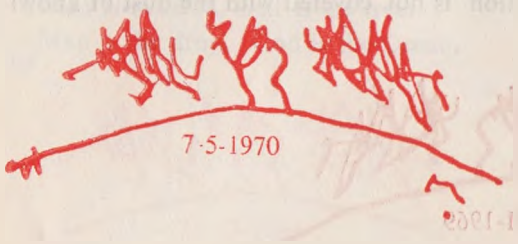
And whose intuition is not covered with the dust of knowledge.

To: Shree Narendra (Swami Narendra Bodhisatva), Jabalpur

85/ DO NOT SWIM—DROWN

Dear One,

Love. Truth is attained not by swimming, but by drowning.
Swimming is on the surface.
Drowning takes one to those fathomless depths.
That are endless.



To: Shree Arvind Kumar, Jabalpur

86/ OPEN EYES ALONE ARE THE DOOR TO TRUTH

Beloved Jayati,

Love. Truth is like the sky—eternal everlasting, boundless.

Is there a "door" to enter the sky?
Then how can there be one to enter Truth?
If our eyes are closed, the sky is not.
The same holds good for Truth.
Open eyes alone are the door to Truth.
Closed eyes are equivalent to closed doors.

To: Sushree Jayati, Junagadh

87/ THE QUEST FOR TRUTH

With love to Jayati,

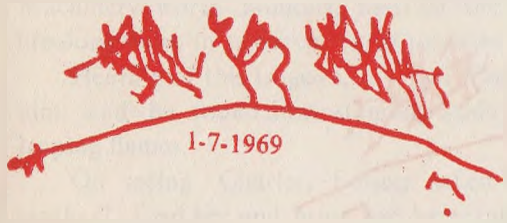
Where is one to seek **for Truth.**
Well—it has to be searched within one's own self.
Within one's self—within one's self—within one's self.
It is definitely there.
One who seeks it elsewhere loses it.

To: Sushree Jayati, Junagadh

88/ DIE EVERY MOMENT

Beloved Bhagavati,

Love. Leave the old track.
Only the dead walk on trodden paths.
Life is forever the quest for the new.
He who has the zest to be new every moment, he alone lives—in the true sense of the word.
Die every moment toward the old so that forever you are new.
This is the gist of the transformation of life.



To: Sushree Bhagavati Advani, Bombay

89/ FEARLESSNESS COMES WITH SADHANA

Beloved Bhagavati,

Love. Man is a slave.
For, he is afraid to be alone.
Therefore, he needs a crowd, a society, an organization.
Fear is the foundation of all organizations.
And how can a fearful mind know the Truth?
Truth requires fearlessness.
Fearlessness comes from Sadhana, not from societies.
That is why religions, institutions, organizations—all are obstructions in the path of Truth.

To: Sushree Bhagavati Advani, Bombay

90/ TOTAL ACCEPTANCE AND SURRENDER IS THEISM

Dear Yoga Bhagavati,

Love. Infinite hope is theism.
It is Patience.
It is Awaiting.
It is Trust in the play of life.
Therefore, there is no possibility of complaint in theism.
Theism is acceptance—theism is surrender.
Acceptance of that which is beyond the self.
Surrender unto that which is the source of the self.

In 1914, a fire broke out in the laboratory of Thomas Edison. Machinery worth millions, and all the papers pertaining to his life-long work in research, burnt to ashes.

Hearing of this tragedy, his son Charles came looking for him, and he found him standing aside enjoying the sight of the leaping flames.

On seeing Charles, Edison asked him: "Where is your mother? Find her and bring her here quickly. Such a sight she will never see again!"

The next day, walking amidst the ashes of his hopes and dreams, the 67-year-old inventor said: "What an advantage there is in destruction! All our faults have been burnt to ashes, Thank God! Now we can start afresh, all over again!"

There is no end to God's Grace. We only require the eyes to see it.

To: Ma Yoga Bhagavati, Bombay

91/ GOD ALONE IS OUR WEALTH

Dear Yoga Bhagavati,

Love. God alone is our wealth.
Do not rely on any other wealth.
All other fortunes turn out to be misfortunes in the end.

St. Teresa wanted to open a very big orphanage, but she had only three shillings at that time.

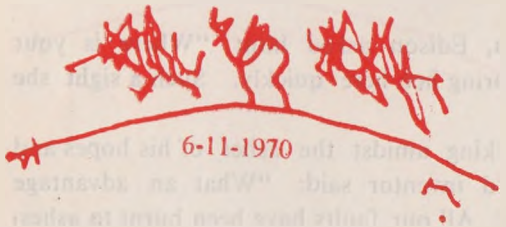
She wanted to start that gigantic project with this humble amount.

Friends and devotees advised her: "Collect the necessary funds first.

What can you do with a mere three shillings?"

Teresa laughed and said: "Teresa can do nothing with three shillings, of course.

But **with God and three shillings, nothing is impossible!"**



To: Ma Yoga Bhagavati, Bombay

92/ NECTAR AND POISON—BOTH ARE MINE

My Beloved,

Love. I am one with ALL.
In beauty.
And ugliness.
For whatsoever IS, is not without me.
Not in virtue alone: in sin too I am a partner.
And not heaven alone: hell too is mine.
Buddha, Jesus, Lao Tse—
Ah! It is so easy to be their heir.
But Genghis, Taimur and Hitler?
They also are within me!
No, no—**not half: I am the whole of mankind.**
Whatever is man's is mine.
Flowers and thorns.
Light as well as darkness.
If nectar is mine—for whom the poison?
"Nectar and poison—both are mine."
He who experiences thus I call religious.

For the anguish of such an experience alone can revolutionalize life on earth.

To: Sushree Laxmi, Bombay

93/ TRUTH IS BEYOND WORDS

Desr Yoga Laxmi,

Love. Wittgenstein has said somewhere, "That which cannot be said must not be said."

Ah! If only this statement was accepted, there would have been no useless arguments on Truth.

For THAT WHICH IS cannot be put into words.

Or, whatever is said—is not THAT.

It cannot be THAT—WHICH IS.

Truth is beyond words.

Therefore, silence alone is relevant in connection with Truth.

But silence is very difficult.

The mind wants to talk even of that which cannot be talked about.

Actually, the mind alone is the obstacle to silence.

Silence is the state of NO-MIND.

A preacher came to address little children.

Before he started, he put a question to them: "If you were asked to address a gathering of such intelligent boys and girls who expect a good lecture from you, and if you had nothing to speak on, what would you say?"

A small child replied: "I would keep quiet."

"I would keep quiet": such child-like simplicity is required for the experiment with Truth.

To: Ma Yoga Laxmi, Bombay

94/ MAN ALSO IS A SEED

Beloved Yoga Laxmi,

Love.

It is not that only a seed is a seed.

Man also is a seed.

It is not that only seeds bloom.

Man also blooms.

It is not that seeds alone blossom into flowers.

Men too blossom into flowers.

Religion is the science of converting the seeds of mankind into flowers.

To: Ma Yoga Laxmi, Bombay

95/ NEITHER SUPRESSIONS NOR NEGATION —BUT AWARENESS

Dear Yoga Laxmi,

Love. Suppression becomes attractive.
And negation, inviting!
Freedom lies in being alert and awake toward the mind.

Negation is not restriction.
Negation is an invitation.

Just as the tongue tends to hover around the hollow of an extracted tooth, so does the mind circle around and around that which is forbidden.

A small-time shopkeeper once caused a sensation in London.
He hung a black curtain, with a small hole in the centre, in his show window.
Under the hole was written in large letters: "Peeping strictly forbidden."
As was natural, all the traffic on the road came to a stand-still!

Crowds of people gathered round the shop.
They jostled one another just for a peep, behind the curtain.

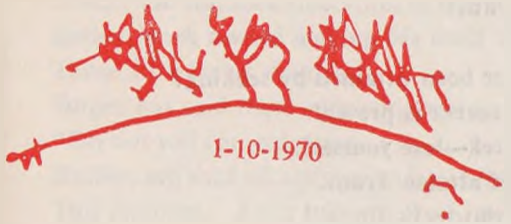
But by peeping into the hole, nothing was visible except for a few towels.

It was only a small towel shop; and the shopkeeper devised this sure method to increase his sales.

It worked like magic.

Man too does the same—with his mind—and becomes involved in the bargain.

Therefore, one must always be cautious of negation, hostility and suppression.



To: Ma Yoga Laxmi, Bombay

96/ HE WHO LOSES FINDS

Dear One,

Love. Where is Truth?
Do not seek.
When has Truth ever been attained by seeking?
For in seeking, the seeker is present.
Therefore, **do not seek—lose yourself.**
He who loses himself attains Truth.
I do not say, "He who seeks finds."
I say, "He who loses finds."

To: Swami Kriyananda (Swami Yoga Chinmaya), Bombay

97/ MAKE LIFE ITSELF A LIBERATION

Dear One,

Love. Do not seek liberation in opposition to life.
Rather, work toward making life itself into liberation.
Those who know, do this.
Dogen has said these endearing words:
"Do not toil for salvation.
Rather, see that all actions lead to Liberation."
This happens. I can tell you from my own experience.
The day this becomes possible, life becomes as beautiful as a flower in full bloom.
Life is filled with fragrance.

To: Swami Kriyananda (Swami Yoga Chinmaya). Bombay

98/ FREEDOM FROM DREAMS IS THE DOOR TO TRUTH

Dear Yoga Chinmaya,

Love. **Man does not live in realities; he lives in dreams.**

Each mind creates a world of its own which is not anywhere.

Not only at night: even in the day, the mind is surrounded by dreams.

The increase in the quantity and intensity of dreams leads to insanity.

To be devoid of dreams is to be sound and healthy.

The President of a country once came to inspect the country's biggest lunatic asylum.

The superintendent took him to a room and said: "In this room, the inmates suffer from 'car-phobia'."

The President became curious and looked through the window.

"But there is nobody there," he said.

"They are all there, Sir—under the bed repairing cars," the superintendent replied.

Are not all people lying under their own dreams in the same way?

If the President had looked within his own self, what would he have found?

Are not our Capitols big madhouses?

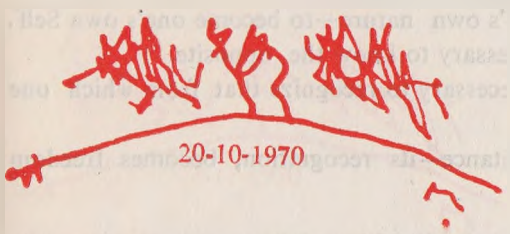
But **one cannot see one's own madness.**

Such is the unavoidable condition of madness.

When a person starts doubting himself, when a person starts seeing his own madness, know that the time has come for his insanity to go.

Knowledge of madness breaks madness.

Knowledge of ignorance breaks ignorance.
Knowledge of dreams destroys dreams.
Then what remains is the Truth.



To: Swami Yoga Chinmaya, Bombay

99/ TO LIVE IN ONE'S NATURE IS SADHANA

Dear Yoga Chinmaya,

Love. The meaning of Sadhana is to live in one's own nature—to live in one's own nature—to become one's own Self.

Therefore, it is necessary to know the opposite.

It is absolutely necessary to recognize that from which one wants to be free.

In fact, its acquaintance—its recognition, becomes freedom from it.

A disciple of Bankei asked him, "I become overpowered by anger. I want to be rid of it, but I cannot be. What shall I do?"

Bankei did not say a word.

He only stared at him—looked deep, deep within his eyes.

Those few minutes of silence proved too long and heavy for the questioner.

Beads of perspiration appeared on his forehead.

He wanted to break the silence, but could not gather enough courage.

Then Bankei laughed and said: "It is rather strange. I searched, but could not find anger anywhere within you.

Just the same, show a little of it to me—here and now."

The disciple said: "It is not always there. It comes sometimes, all of a sudden. Therefore, how can I show you now?"

Bankei laughed again:

"Then it is not your true nature.

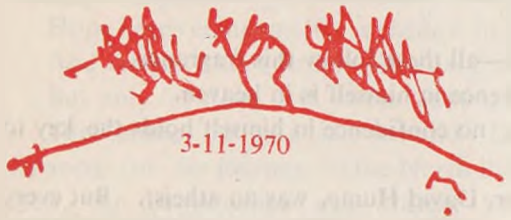
"For your nature remains always with you.

"If it was your own temperament, you could have shown it to me anytime.

"When you were born, it was not with you; when you die, it will not be with you.

"No—this anger is not you. There is definitely a mistake somewhere.

"Go! **Think again, search again, meditate again.**"



To: Swami Yoga Chinmaya, Bombay

100/ FAITH IN ONE'S OWN SELF

Dear Krishna Karuna,

Love. **There is no power greater than faith in one's own self.**

The fragrance of self-confidance is something not of this world.

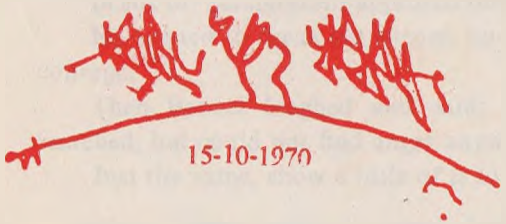
Peace, Bliss, Truth—all these follow this fragrance.

He who has confidence in himself is in heaven.

And he who has no confidence in himself holds the key to hell in his own hands.

The English thinker, David Hume, was an atheist. But every Sunday, he made it a point to attend the lectures of John Brown—a confirmed theist.

When people told him that going to church was against his own principles, he laughed and replied: "I have no faith in whatever John Brown says. But John Brown has full faith in what he says. So once a week, I make it a point to hear a man who has full faith in himself!"



To: Ma Krishna Karuna, Bombay

101/ INFINITE HOPE IS THE ONLY SUPPORT

Dear Krishna Karuna,

Love. In the quest for God, there is no support except infinite hope.

Hope keeps shining like the North star in darkness.

Hope keeps company like a shadow in loneliness.

And certainly life's path is pitch dark and very, very lonely.

But only for those with whom hope is not.

The famous geographical inventor Donald Macmillan was preparing for his journey to the North Pole, when he received a letter. On the envelope was written: "This should be opened only when there is no hope for survival."

Fifty years passed. The envelope remained with him as it was—closed and sealed.

Someone asked him the reason for this and he said: "For one thing, I want to keep alive the faith of the unknown sender. Another, I have never given up hope."

Ah, what priceless words! "I have never given up hope!"

To: Ma Krishna Karuna, Bombay

102/ SADHANA FOLLOWS DETERMINATION

Beloved Maunoo,

Love. **The resolve of Sannyas is an auspicious beginning. Sadhana follows resolve—like a shadow.**

Seeds have to be sown in the mind also.

And we can also reap the harvest of that which we sow.

Paths have to be hewn in the mind also.

The temple of God is very near—but the mind is like a thick, formidable forest. Through this, we have to find the way to the temple.

The beginning has to be made from the closest proximity.

To go a long way, the first step has to be taken in the very near proximity.

Not only in the journey toward Truth alone—in any other journey, **the beginning and the end are not different.**

They are the two extremes of the same span!

They are the two poles of the same actuality!

And yet, the final goal cannot be surmised by the first step.

Many a time, the first step seems completely irrelevant to the goal!

Charles Catering has written an interesting incident in his recollections:

"I once laid a bet with a friend that if I bought him a cage to hang in his sitting room, he would have to buy a bird for it. The friend laughed and said, he could keep the cage without the bird. What is there to it?

"Well, he accepted the bet and I bought him a beautiful cage from Switzerland, and he hung it in his sitting room."

Naturally, that happened which was to happen. **Life too has its own logic.**

"Whoever saw the empty cage sympthized with him (the friend) and asked, 'When did your bird die?'

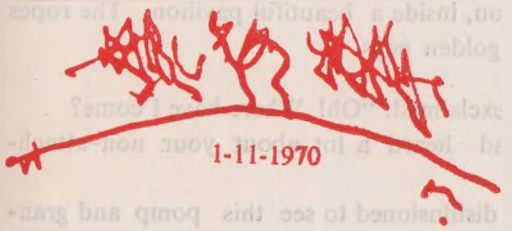
"He would reply, 'I never had a bird.'

"Then they would ask, 'Then why this empty cage?'

"Finally, he got sick and tired of explaining and went and bought a bird.

"When I asked him, he said, 'It was easier to buy the bird and lose the bet than to explain to each and everyone from morning to evening. **And then, seeing the empty cage day in and day out, my mind kept repeating, "The bird—the bird—the bird!" ' "**

If the cage of resolve hangs in the sitting room of the mind, it does not take long for the bird of sadhana to come.



To: Sushree Maunoo (Ma Yoga Kranti), Jabalpur

103/ DETACHMENT

Beloved Maunoo,

Love. Detachment is not related with objects, but with thoughts.

Detachment is not related with the outer, but it is deep within.

Detachment is not related with the world, but with the self.

One day a beggar went to meet a Sufi fakir. He saw him seated on a velvet cushion, inside a beautiful pavilion. The ropes of the tent were tied on golden pegs.

Seeing all this, he exclaimed: "Oh! Where have I come?

"Peer Sahib, I had heard a lot about your non–attachment and spirituality.

"I am completely disillusioned to see this pomp and grandeur around you."

The fakir laughed and said: "I am ready to leave all this behind and go with you."

So saying, he got up and walked off with the beggar without even waiting to put on his sandals!

But after awhile, the beggar was in distress.

"I forgot my begging bowl in your tent." He said, "Pray, wait here till I go and fetch it."

The Sufi smiled: "Friend", he said, "The golden pegs of my pavilion were buried entirely in the ground and not in my chest, but your begging bowl is still pursuing you."

To be in the world is not attachment.

The world's presence in the mind is the attachment.
Evaporation of the world from the mind is detachment.

To: Sushree Maunoo (Ma Yoga Kranti), Jabalpur

104/ CHANGE ALONE IS ETERNAL

Beloved Maunoo,

Love. Everything changes except for change.
Change alone is eternal.

But the human mind lives in the past.
And that is the confusion of all confusions.

One day the skies were filled with the clouds of war.
Plane upon plane loaded with death!

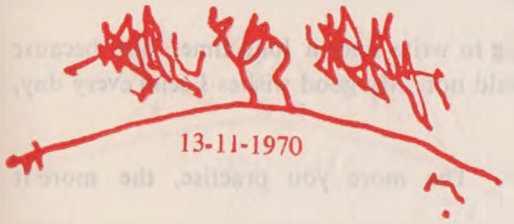
Beasts and birds, worms and beetles, all who could run, ran.
Horses and donkeys, rats and sheep, dogs, cats, wolves—all ran for their lives.
The paths were full of them.
This fleeing horde saw two vultures sitting on a wall by the road.
They shouted to them as they ran: "Brothers—run! Lose no time! Flee while you can! Man is on the warpath again."

The vultures only smiled.
They were experienced and knew only too well!

One of them said: "Since time immemorial, man's wars have always been good news for vultures.
"Our ancestors have said the same—so also, our scriptures.
"It also is our own experience.
"It is only for the benefit of vultures that God sends men to war.
"God has made man and war solely for the vultures."

So saying, they spread their wings and flew in the direction of the battle.
In the next moment, amidst the raining bombs, even their remnants did not remain.

If they only knew that things change in a thousand years!
But when does even man know this?



To: Sushree Maunoo (Ma Yoga Kranti), Jabalpur

105/ FREEDOM FROM ACTIVITIES —THROUGH AWARENESS

Dear Jayaben,

Love. I am in bliss.

I have been meaning to write since a long time, but because of preoccupations I could not. My good wishes I send every day, however.

Life is a sadhana. The more you practise, the more it shines and sparkles.

Light has been kept hidden in the darkness.

Truth is hidden and therefore—the joy is searching.

I remember the words of a *rishi* (sage): "Truth is hidden and guarded by a golden lid."

This golden lid that covers Truth is nothing but our own mind.

The mind has overpowered us. We are in it, we are one with it—therefore, the sorrow, the bondage and the rebirths.

Rise above it. Know yourself as different from it.

That alone is bliss, freedom, the attainment of life beyond birth and death.

We have to be only that which we are. This alone is the sadhana.

In this sadhana, **the failure of activity comes by itself.**

By awakening toward activity, contentment begins to appear.

Contentment is not to be brought about. It is the natural outcome of being conscious of activity.

Each one of us has to be aware of the activity—to be more aware!

Awareness has to be brought into day-to-day actions and occupations. Nothing should be done in a trance.

If this is remembered, someday a wonderful revolution comes to pass in the realm of consciousness.

God is drawing you toward this revolution—this I know.

To: Sushree Jayaben Shah, Bombay

106/ MEDITATION--THROUGH NON-DOING —NON-EFFORT

Shrimati Jayaben,

Pranam. I am grateful for your affectionate letter.

You meditate—that is a matter of joy.
Shun the thought of achieving in meditation; what happens, happens by itself.

Some days, without any difficulty, things happen.
Our efforts do not bring about meditation.
Rather, effort is an obstruction.

In effort, in labour, in study, there is a tension.
Expectation--even the expectation of tranquility--is restlessness.

All these tensions are to be removed.
As soon as these tensions take leave of us, a transcendental peace sets in.

Abandon the attitude of "I am doing something".
Know only this: "I am leaving myself in the hands of He, WHO IS".

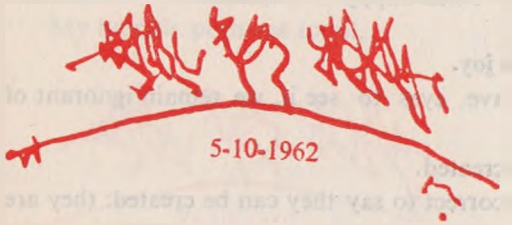
Resign yourself—resign yourself completely—and, with this comes the Emptiness.

Body and breath are becoming lax you say.
The mind will too.
When the mind departs, then what happens cannot be bound by words.

I know that this is to happen to you and to Ila.
Just proceed naturally, without a purpose.
Then I am to come.
Till then, keep on doing peacefully what I have told you.

My humble salutations to all. Write whenever you feel like it.

I am in complete bliss.



To: Sushree Jayaben Shah, Bombay

107/ THE WITNESS

Sushree Jayaben,

Pranam. I was out, but your letter followed me and reached me during my journey. I was happy to receive it.

I see life filled with joy.

As we do not have eyes to see it, we remain ignorant of his.

These eyes can be created.

Perhaps it is not correct to say they can be created: they are already there.

It is only a matter of opening them, and, as a result, everything changes.

With meditation, this (opening of the eyes) becomes complete.

Meditation means: tranquility, emptiness.

This Emptiness is present within, but is covered with thoughts —with the mind.

As thoughts cease, it comes into view.

It seems difficult to be freed of all the thoughts, but it is very simple.

The mind seems very restless and active, but it can quieten down very easily.

The key to transcend it is the witness state.

We have to be a witness, an observer of the mind; we have to watch it.

The moment the witness state dawns, that very moment brings freedom from thoughts.

This, in turn, opens the door to bliss, and this very world becomes a new world altogether.

Keep meditation going; results will come slowly.

You have not to worry about that. Their coming is definite.

My coming to Bombay is not fixed yet. I will let you know when the date is fixed.

My humble pranams to all.

To: Sushree Jaya Shah, Bombay

108/ THE INNER FLAME

Dear Sister,

It is God's grace that you are working toward the revelation of the inner light.

That light is definitely within, and by its encounter all darkness in life disappears.

Each step taken within cuts the darkeness layer by layer and enfolds the world of light where everything becomes new.

This experience cuts all bondages, and then comes the realization that they never existed!

Liberation happens to that which is eternally liberated.

I am pleased with your progress.

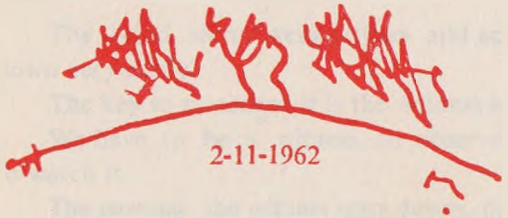
Your letter was received long back, but as I was busy there was delay in replying.

But your remembrance is always there—and also of those who are eager for light. Good wishes forever flow toward them from me.

We have to keep going. Many a time the path disheartens, but, ultimately, the thirsty traveller reaches the spring.

In fact, the water exists before the thirst.

My pranams to all.



To: Sushree Jaya Shah, Bombay

109/ THE DREAM-LIKE KNOT OF UNAWARENESS

Dear Sister,

It is a long time since I received your letter.

I fill with joy at your desire to attain peace.

Remove from your mind this thought that you are way behind.

Nobody is left behind.

It is a matter of a little turn within: the drop becomes the ocean.

Actually, the drop is the ocean, but it does not know. That is the only difference.

In the emptiness of meditation, even this mystery is solved.

Meditation is the center of realization in life.

The thought process will decrease little by little, and in its place will descend peace and silence.

When thoughts disappear, the seer, the witness, becomes visible, and the knot of awareness opens.

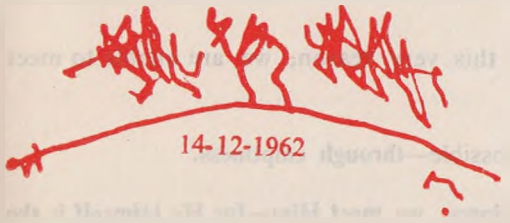
This knot is the cause of bondage.

This knot appears as hard as stone in the beginning, but the seeker who practises patiently finds one day that it was absolutely a dream—a whiff of air.

May the seed of meditation blossom into the flower of Realization. This is my wish for you!

My humble regards to all. How is Ila?

The rest when we meet.



To: Sushree Jaya Shah, Bombay

110/ EMPTINESS IS THE GATEWAY TO GOD

Dear Sister,

Pranam. I was awaiting your letter when it came.

That your life be filled with light and you be able to surrender yourself to God is my earnest wish.

God and light are forever near.
It is only a matter of opening one's eyes.
Then, what is ours becomes ours.
The distance is only of the twinkling of an eye—perhaps not even this much.
The eyes are open, only we do not know this.

There is an old story:
A fish had long heard stories about the ocean.
This was becoming too much for her, so one day she had to ask the Queen of fish: "What is this ocean? Where is it?"

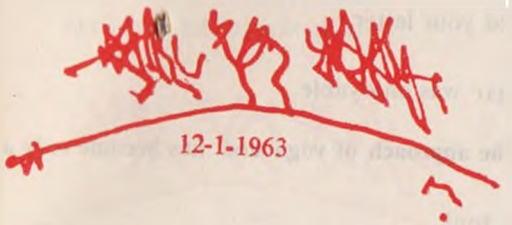
The Queen was surprised. "The ocean? Why, you are in the ocean itself! Your very existence, your very life, is within the ocean. The ocean is within you—and what is without you, that too is the ocean. You have risen out of the ocean, you will vanish into the ocean. The ocean is your everything. But for the ocean, you are nothing."
And perhaps for this very reason, the fish could not see the ocean!

And perhaps for this very reason, we are unable to meet God!

But this union is possible—**through emptiness.**

In the state of emptiness, we meet Him—for He Himself is the great Void.

I am in bliss—or, shall I say, only bliss alone is and I am not!



To: Sushree Jaya Shah, Bombay

111/ YOGA SADHANA IS THE RIGHT RELIGION

Dear Sister,

Pranam. I received your letter.
I was awaiting it.
The trip to Rajnagar was enjoyable.

Religion has left the approach of yoga and has become only a matter of morality.
It h s thus lost its soul.

Morality is negative.
The foundation of life cannot be laid on negation. Negation cannot give life.

The stress should be on attainment and not on denial.
The attainment of Knowledge should be the center of your efforts.
Not the leaving of ignorance.

This can only be done by a positive sadhana.
This sadhana is attained by yoga.

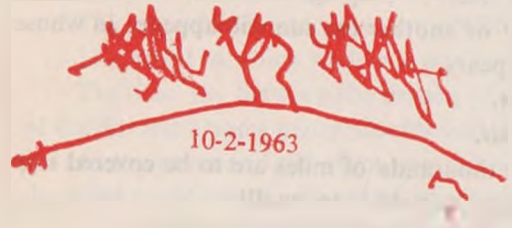
In my talks with Acharya Tulsi, Muni Shri Nathamaljee and others, I have stressed this very point.
Many letters have come from Rajnagar and Rajasthan in this connection.

As you have said, it seems, some fruitful work has been done by going there.

One thing is clear, that people are eager and thirsty for a spiritual life, and the current forms of religion do not satisfy them.

If, however, the image of religion is given to them, it can revolutionize the human mind.

I remember you.
May God grant you peace.
My love and regards to all.



To: Sushree Jaya Shah, Bombay

112/ THIRST, PRAYER, EFFORT AND AWAITING

Dearmost One,

Love. Your letter was received with joy.

If the thirst is so full of longing for Truth, for peace, for righteousness, one day or another the sun will appear, in whose presence darkness disappears.

Increase your thirst.

Pray, labour and wait.

Be not afraid that thousands of miles are to be covered step by step and that each step in itself is so small!

It is step by step only that infinite distance is covered.

The ocean fills—drop by drop.

My regards to all. I shall be coming soon now.

The rest when we meet. What news of Trimurti?

To: Shree Jayantibhai, Bombay

113/ THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE LIFE PROCESS

Dear Hasumati,

Love. The impossible too is not impossible—if resolve is there.

The possible also becomes impossible if resolve is not there.

The world in which we live is our own creation.

The time lag between the sowing of the seed and the coming of the harvest creates many doubts and uncertainties.

As the cause and the effect are not seen together, that which the mind could easily understand is not understood at all.

There is nothing broken or unconnected.

The missing links that are not visible become clearly visible by a little deep observation.

To understand the life process is to enter the gateway of peace.

Light is very near, and that too awaits the seeker.

To: Kumari Hasumati, Bombay

114/ THE SONG OF LIFE

Beloved Sangeeta,

Love. When the moon rises in the heavens above, keep gazing at it. Forget everything else—even yourself!

Only then will you know the music that is without sound.

And when the sun rises at dawn, bow your head on the ground and lose yourself in salutations to him.

Only then will you know the music that is not man-made!

And when the trees burst into flowers, be a flower yourself and dance gaily in the breeze with the rest.

Only then will you know the music that is born within the innermost Self.

One who recognizes this music recognizes life too.

The song of life is another word for God.

To: Sangeeta Khabiya, Ratlam, M.P.

115/ LET YOURSELF GO AND CEASE TO EXIST

Dear One,

Love. **Love also is fire.**

Cold fire!

Yet we have to burn in it.

But it also purifies.

It burns only to purify.

All impurities have to burn before gold becomes pure.

In the same way, my love will be an anguish.

Your identity will be lost because I want to remake you.

The seed must be broken—how else will the tree be born?

The river must end—or else it will never be one with the Ocean.

Therefore, **let yourself go and cease to exist.**

For there is no other way of attaining the SELF.

To: Shree Sardarilal Sehgal, Amritsar

116/ LOVE IS ETERNITY

Dear One,

Love. I am so happy to receive your letter.

How can it ever be that the ray of love comes without the fragrance of joy?

What is bliss but the fragrance of joy?

But the world is filled with such insane people who seek happiness throughout their lives and keep their backs turned toward love!

The doors of heaven open only when love becomes the prayer of the entire being.

Perhaps His doors are always open; but the eyes that are closed to love, how can they see them, even if they are open?

But what is this you have written—"momentary contact."

No! No! How can love's contact be momentary?

Love turns even a moment into eternity.

Where there is love, there is nothing momentary.

Where there is love, there is eternity.

Is a drop only a drop?

No! No! It is the ocean too.

The drop seen through the eyes of love becomes the Ocean!

I expect you here on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of August.

My pranams to Tandonji.

To: Shree Mahipal, Bombay

117/ SADHANA—STEEPED IN SURRENDER AND RESOLVE

Dear Sohan

Love—and yet more love.

I received your letter on my return.

The message of your restless soul has reached me through your words.

I know very well the tumultuous desire rocking your soul and **the thirst that turns into tears and flows through your eyes.**

It was once in me also, and I too have suffered from it.

I can understand your heart, for in the quest of God I too have travelled the paths that you have now to take.

I too have experienced the restlessness which one day turns into a burning fire, in which one has to burn one's own self.

But this burning is itself the birth of a new life.

When the drop ceases to exist, then only does it become the Ocean.

Make a continuous effort toward meditation; you have to go deeper and deeper into it.

That alone is the way.

With this and this alone is it possible to reach the reality of life.

Remember, for he who becomes absorbed in sadhana with resolve and complete surrender, the reaching of the Absolute is inevitable.

This is the eternal law.

Any step taken Godward is never taken in vain.

My regards to all.

I have received Sri Maniklaljee's New Year greetings.
That God illumine him from within is my prayer.

To: Sohan Bafna, Poona

118/ DIGGING OF THE TREASURE WITHIN

Dear Sohan Bai,

Love. I have received your letter.

The peace that is within me—you desire.

It is yours any moment.

It is the innermost possibility of all of us.

It has only to be dug open.

As the springs of water lie hidden under the layers of the earth, so does the kingdom of Bliss lie hidden within us.

This possibility is in everyone, but only those who dig for is can possess it.

Religion is the means for digging the hidden treasures of the inner depths.

It is the spade to dig the well of light within oneself.

I have shown you the spade.

Now you have to dig yourself.

I know that the soil of your mind is absolutely ready.

With very little effort, the eternal waters can be reached.

Such a state of mind is attained by great fortune.

Full use of this opportunity and fortune must be made.

Fill yourself with such a resolve and leave the rest to God.

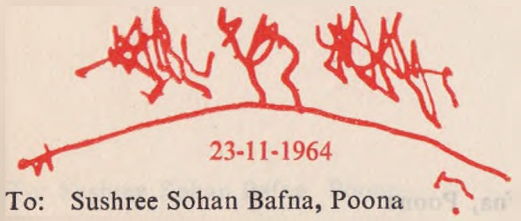
Truth resides alongside of resolve.

Do not ever hesitate to write.

I have lots of time for you.

I am for those who need me.

Nothing in my life is for myself.



To: Sushree Sohan Bafna, Poona

119/ THE JOURNEY WITHIN—IN ONE'S OWN SELF—IN TRUTH

Dear Sohan,

Love. I am in bliss.

I am going out again tonight.

You were able to meet me in Bombay—that was good.

My heart was delighted to see that which was happening within you.

Thus, an individual becomes prepared to ascend the steps leading to Truth.

Life is a double journey: one journey is in time and space; the other is within oneself and in Truth.

The first ends in death, the second is immortality.

The second is the real journey because it reaches somewhere.

Those who take the first journey as everything dissipate their lives.

The real life begins at the start of the second journey.

That auspicious beginning has taken place in your consciousness, and I am filled with joy to feel this.

My love to Maniklaljee and all.

To: Sushree Sohan Bafna, Poona

120/ THE LAMPS OF LOVE

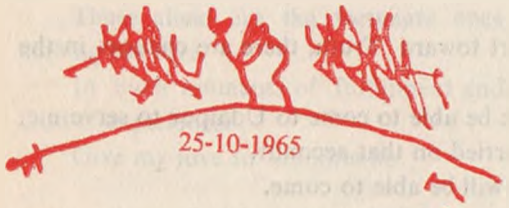
Beloved Sohan,

Love. Last night when there were lamps and lamps lit all over the town, I was thinking, "My Sohan too, must have lighted lamps, and some among them must surely be for me!"

And then I started to see those lamps that you had lighted—**and also those that your love has kept lighted forever.**

I shall stay another day here.

I have talked about you to all, and everyone is eager to see you.



To: Sushree Sohan Bafna, Poona

121/ LOVE IS SERVICE

Dear Sohan,

I received your letter.

You have hurt your finger: it looks as if you are not paying attention to your body.

What is the reason for the mind's restlessness?

In this dreamlike world, it is worthwhile to make the mind restless on any account.

Tranquility is the greatest bliss, and there is nothing greater for which it can be lost.

Ponder over this.

By merely being alert toward Truth, there are changes in the depths within.

I think you may not be able to come to Udaipur to serve me.

Perhaps you are worried on that account.

It appears as if you will be able to come.

But if you cannot do not be depressed, for I receive your services constantly.

Is someone's love not service enough?

For that matter, if you do not come I will feel your absence.

As yet, the thought of being with you is linked with the camp in Udaipur, and I am hopeful that you will come.

Love to Manikbabu.

Regards to all others.

To: Sushree Sohan Bafna, Poona

122/ THE POVERTY OF A LOVELESS HEART

Beloved Sohan,

Love. I have received your letter.

I was sitting in the same spot in the grass when it came.

What I was thinking then I shall only tell when we meet. What a fragrance memories leave behind!

When life is so completely filled with love, there is bliss and bliss everywhere.

Those alone are paupers in this world who have no love in their hearts.

Those alone are the fortunate ones in whose hearts there is nothing but love.

In such moments of fulfillment and energy the presence of God is experienced.

Give my love to Manikbabu.

To: Sushree Sohan Bafna, Poona

123/ THE OCEAN OF LOVE IN A PITCHER

Dear Sohan,

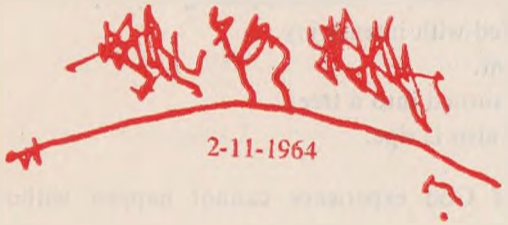
Love. I looked for your letter as soon as I came yesterday.
It was Sunday, yet I kept waiting for it.
It came this evening. How much you write in such few words!
When the heart is full, it overflows through words.
Therefore, there is no need for many words.
The ocean of love can be contained in a pitcher too!
And as for scriptures on love, only the knowledge of the little word "love" is enough.
Do you know how many times I read these letters of yours?

To: Sushree Sohan Bafna, Poona

124/ THE TREASURE OF LOVE

Dear Sohanbai,

Love. I have received your very loving letter.
You have written that my words echo in your ears.
May their sound take you to those realms where everything is silent—wordless!
This is my desire.
The journey is from words to silence.
There is the union with the Self.
I am in bliss. Accept my love.
I have nothing to give besides love.
This alone is my treasure.
The wonder is that the more it is given, the more it becomes.
In fact, real treasure is that which increases up on distribution.
That which diminishes is no treasure at all.
My love to Maniklaljee and others.
Write again. Not you alone: I too await your letters.



To: Sushree Sohan Bafna, Poona

125/ GOD IS LOVE UNBOUNDED

Supreme Being,

Love. After returning from the meditation camp, I had gone out of town again.

I returned only last night. I remembered you all along.
The thirst for God I saw in your eyes and the tumult in your heart for attaining Truth were not possible to forget.

Such thirst is auspicious, for he alone who goes through its anguish reaches the goal.
Remember, thirst is the first condition for the birth of light and love.

God is nothing accept the combination of light and love.
Love, absolutely pure and resplendent, becomes God.
When love transcends all boundaries, in that transparent state Divinity reflects itself.

I have seen the possibility of this happening in you, and my innermost Being is filled with intense joy.
The seed is present.
It has now to be turned into a tree.
Perhaps the time also is ripe.

Any possibility of God experience cannot happen without meditation.
Therefore, constant attention is to be given in this direction, together with a deep resolve.

I have great hopes in you.
Will you fulfill them ?

My regards to Manikbabu and all loved ones there.
I await your letter.

You remember the talk of the blank paper?
All else is well.
I am in great bliss.

To: Sushree Sohan Bafna, Poona

126/ WATERED WITH TEARS— THE WINE OF LOVE

Dear Sohan.

Love. It was just this time of night, two days ago, that I left you at Chittor.

Your eyes filled with love and bliss came before my mind.

The secret of all prayers and worship are hidden in those sacred tears.

Those whom God blesses, He fills their heart with tears of love; and how is one to account for the misfortunes of those whose hearts are filled with thorns of hatred instead ?

Tears that flow in love become offerings of flowers at the feet of the Lord, and they bless the eyes from which they flow with Divine vision.

Only eyes that are filled with love succeed in seeing God.

Love is the only energy that transcends the inertia of nature and leads to the shores of the Superconscious.

I think, before this letter reaches, Manikbabu will have taken you to Kashi ?

How the journey passed I do not know, but I hope that it passed in song and laughter.

Here Arvind looked for Anil and his friends in the train, but there was no sign of them.

Give my humble regards to all there. I await your promised letters.

Love to Manikbabu.

To: Sushree Sohan Bafna, Poona

127/ BE MAD FOR GOD

Dear Anand Madhu,

Love. The time is ripe.
The hour is drawing near, every day.
Many souls are restless.
A way has to be made for them.
Hasten, therefore.
Labour hard!
Surrender fully!
Forget yourself.
Go mad for God and become engrossed in your work.
Nothing less than maddess for Him will do.
Ah! But there is no wisdom greater than the wisdom of God-madness!

To: Ma Ananda Madhu, Ajol, Gujarat

128/ WASTE NO TIME

Dear Krishna Chaitanya,

Love. How long is the energy to be left asleep?

How much longer have you decided to remain oblivious of the greatness of your own Self?

Waste no time in doubt and indecision.

Lose no opportunity in uncertainties and suspicions.

Time never returns.

And, at times it takes many a birth for the lost opportunities to come one's way again.

To: Swami Krishna Chaitanya, Ajol, Gujarat

129/ TRANSCENDENCE OF DUALITY— THROUGH WITNESSING

Denr Yoga Prem,

Love. Existence is a play of sun and shade, hope and despair, happiness and sorrow, life and death.

In other words, **Existence is duality.** It is a tension of opposite poles. **It is a music of contradictory notes.**

To know it, to recognize it, to experience it as such, is to rise above it.

This transcendence is the actual sadhana.

To achieve this transcendence is the real achievement.

The secret of this transcendence is the witness state.

Bid adieu to the doer and live in the witness state.

Observe the drama—do not be drowned in it.

Rather, be drowned in the observer.

Then happiness and sorrow, birth and death, remain only on the stage.

Then they do not affect—they cannot affect.

In our identification with them lies all error, all ignorance.

To: Ma Yoga Prem, Ajol, Gujarat

130/ ACT YOUR PART WELL

Dear Yoga Priya,

Love. In Sannyas, the mundane world is a drama.

To know life to be a drama is Sannyas.

Then no one is small, no one is big—no Ram and no Ravan.

Then whatever is, is a "RAM-LEELA" (a play about Ram).

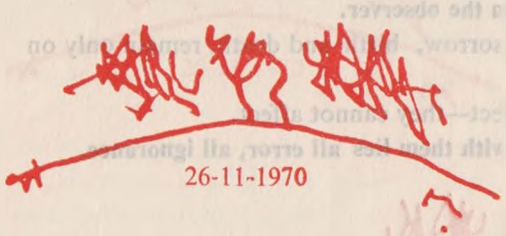
Whatever part you are given to play, do it well.

The play is not you.

As long as we are identified with the play, knowledge of the Self is impossible.

The day this identification breaks, ignorance becomes impossible.

Act your part, but know that you are not it.



To: Ma Yoga Priya, Ajol, Gujarat

131/ MEDITATION IS TO LOOK WITHIN

Dear Yoga Yasha,

Love. The seed has no knowledge whatsoever of its own possibilities.

It is the same with man.

He too knows not what he is, what he can be!

But a seed cannot possibly look within itself.

But for man, it is possible to see within himself.

This looking within is called meditation.

To know the perfect Truth of one's own Self, here and now, is meditation.

Dive into meditation—deeper and yet deeper.

In the mirror of the depths, all the potentialities of a person are fully reflected.

And what is potential begins to happen.

The awareness of potentialities begins turning them into realities.

As the seed is swayed by the dreams of possibilities, it begins to sprout.

Surrender to meditation all your time, resolve and energy.

For meditation is the doorless door that introduces one's self to the Self.

To: Ma Yoga Yasha, Ajol, Gujarat

132/ SURRENDER AND WITNESS

Dear One:

Love. God tests every moment.

Laugh and give the test.

That He considers you worth testing is a good fortune in itself.

Do not hurry.

For by haste some goals go further away.

At least the temple of God is such a destination.

To travel patiently is the fastest pace possible on this journey.

The mind will roam—time and again.

That is its existence.

The day it stops roaming it will be dead.

But at times it appears to be asleep.

Do not take this—its sleep—for its death.

At times it too becomes exhausted.

Do not take its fatigue for its death.

With rest and sleep, it only refreshes itself again and again.

Stop worrying about it altogether.

Even worry gives it strength.

Surrender the mind also to God.

Say unto Him, "Good or bad, however it is, it is yours."

Then be only a witness to it.

Keep watching the play.

Watching the play of the mind with indifference, one enters that consciousness which is not the mind.

To: Swami Pragyananda Saraswati, Haridwar

133/ HE WHO BURNS HIS HOUSE

Dear One,

Love. Love does not differentiate, even in dreams.

In that love, which is also prayer, there is no reason for differentiation.

Where does "I" exist now?

The word "I" is just a working arrangement.

Many a time, therefore, it becomes a hindrance for no resaon.

When the cloud of "I" is removed, what remains is nothing but "love".

Love—without a cause.

Love—unconditional.

I am standing in the marketplace, but someone should be there to take it.

"Kabir stands in the marketplace, firebrand in hand

"He who is ready to burn his house can come with me."

To: Shree Chandrakant U. Patel, Baroda, Gujarat

134/ GO STILL DEEPER INTO ATHEISM

Dear One,

Love. Atheism is the first step toward belief in God.
And very necessary.

He who has not known the fire of atheism can never know the splendour of theism.

And he who has not the ability to say "no", his "yes" is always weak and impotent.

Therefore, I am happy that you are an atheist.
And he alone can be happy about this who has known theism.

I will say only this: Go deeper into atheism.
Superficial statements will not do.

Do not just think—live also in atheism.
Living this way ultimately leads to belief in God.

Atheism is not a certainty.
It is only a doubt.
Doubt is good, but is not the end.

Actually, doubt is the quest for belief.
Go—proceed—make the journey.
The journey to Truth starts with doubt.

So, doubt is sadhana.
Because, ultimately, it is doubt that uncovers the indubitable Truth.

In the seed of of doubt hides the tree of faith.
He who plants the seed of disbelief and toils over it is bound to reap the harvest of faith.

And it would be worthwhile to be cautious of all religions, for there is no other hindrance except religions on the path of RELIGION.

To: Shree Bhavani Sinh, Kangra, Himachal Pradesh

135/ "THE FALL" OF THOUGHTS

Dear One,

Love. It is not enough even to float in the current of thoughts.

Just be wakeful.

Know yourself to be apart and different.

Far from them, and only an observer.

As you see the crowds passing by on the road, so observe the multitude of thoughts.

As you see the dry leaves flying everywhere in the Autumn, thus observe the fleeing thoughts.

Be not their creator.

Be not their enjoyer.

Then the rest will happen by itself.

This "rest" is what I call "meditation".

To: Shree Labhshankar Pandya, Ahmedabad

136/ SURRENDER—A JUMP WITHOUT MENTAL CALCULATION

Dear Savitri,

Love. Security is nowhere—except in death.

Life is another name for insecurity.

When this truth is known, the desire for security vanishes by itself.

The acceptance of insecurity is freedom from it.

Conflicts will remain in the mind always.

For that is the nature of the mind.

Do not worry about wiping them out.

For that again is conflict.

Let conflict be—in its own place.

You proceed in meditation.

You are not the mind.

Therefore, where is the hindrance from the mind?

Let darkness be—in its own place.

You light the lamp.

Will you think, ponder and then surrender?

Ah! Surrender is a jump without mental calculation.

Jump—or, do not jump.

But please do not think and ponder over it!

To: Dr. Savitri C. Patel, Bulsar, Gujarat

137/ GOD IS—HERE AND NOW

Beloved Jayati,

Love. God is far away because we do not know how to see Him near.

Otherwise, no one is nearer to us than He.
Not only is He the nearest of all—rather, He is the other name of nearness.

And the second name had to be coined only for those who could not see Him near.

Words, names, doctrines, scriptures, religion, philosophy, all had to be discovered for those who could only see Him at a distance.

And, therefore, they have no connection with God.
Their connection is only with those who are "blind to the near".

Therefore, I say leave the distance.
Leave the paradise of the sky.
Leave the future salvations.

And, see the near—in time as well as in space.
Here and now, SEE!

See in the moment of time.
See in the atom of space.

In the "time moment", time becomes extinct.
In the space atom, space becomes extinct.

Here and now, there is no space, no time.

Then what remains, that is Truth — that is God — that is.

You too are THAT:
"*Tat–twam-asi Shvetaketu.*"

P. S. Love to the Doctor. I have received letters from both of you and also the pictures.

To: Sushree Jayati, Junagadh

138/ THE SADHANA OF "NOT THIS, NOT THAT!"

Beloved Kusum,

Love. **What is Truth?**
It is, at least, not that which can be defined.
Therefore, leave definitions.
Leave explanations and elucidations.
These are the mind's sport.
Explanations are the creations of thoughts.
What IS, is beyond the mind.

As the waves are forever ignorant of the tranquility of the lake, so do thoughts remain unacquainted with the Reality. When the waves rise, because of them the lake loses its tranquility. When the lake is calm, because of its calmness the waves cannot be.

Then what is to be known is THAT WHICH IS.
Its definition is very different from its knowledge.

Explanations can deceive.
As the scarecrows stand in man's clothes in the fields, so words become deceptions of Truth.
The seeker of Truth has to be cautious of words.
Words are not Truth.
Truth is not Words.
Truth is the Experience.
Truth is the Reality.
And the path leading toward it is: "not this, not that" (neither this nor that).
Cut out explanations.
Cut out definitions.
Cut out scriptures.
Cut out doctrines.
Say, "*neti, neti*—not this, not that!"
Then cut out "mine and thine".

Say "*neti, neti*". Then what stands out in the sheer void—that is Truth.
For that alone IS. All else is a dream.
Love to Kapil.
Blessings to Asang.

To: Sushree Kusum, Ludhiana

139/ EMPTY YOURSELF COMPLETELY

Dear Madhu,

Love. The news of the commune thrills my heart.

The seed is sprouting.

Innumerable souls will take shelter under its tree very soon.

These people will gather soon—for whom I have come.

And you are going to be their hostess.

Therefore, get ready—that is, **empty yourself completely.**

For that Emptiness alone can become the Host.

You have already set out on this way—singing, dancing, full of joy.

As the river goes to the sea.

I am happy, and am always with you.

The Ocean is near—just run and run and run!

To: Ma Ananda Madhu, Ajol

140/ STRUGGLE, WILL AND SANNYAS

Beloved Madhu,

Love. The beginning of struggle is auspicious.

I am extremely happy to push you into it.

Sannyas is a challenge to the world.

It is the fundamental proclamation of Freedom.

To live in Freedom from moment and moment is Sannyas.

Insecurity will now always be with you—but that alone is the reality of existence.

Security is nowhere—except in death.

Life is insecurity itself.

And that is its thrill—that is its beauty.

The sheath of security is suicidal.

It is a living death brought on by one's own self.

All around us there are such dead ones.

They have turned the world into a cremation ground.

There are some renowned corpses also among those.

They all have to be awakened, though they themselves are endeavouring to put back to sleep even those who are awake.

This friction will now go on and on.

In it will be born your full-resolve.

Far away, I see the landmark of the destination of your struggles.

To: Ma Ananda Madhu, Ajol

141/ THE ANGUISH OF SPIRITUAL REBIRTH

Beloved Babubhai,

Love. I am happy to receive your letter.
The moment of **self-revolution is near.**
But the initial birth pangs must be gone through.
There is no suffering greater than giving birth to one's Self.
But there is also the supreme bliss of the life that follows.
Therefore, consider thirst, prayer, longing, as sadhana.
All else is well.
My regards to all.

To: Babubai (Swami Krishna Chaitanya), Ajol, Gujarat

142/ START THE JOURNEY— TO THE ETERNITY

Dear Krishna Chaitanya,

Love. I am happy to be the witness of your new birth.

So many lives you have laboured for it.

But now the boat has taken its direction and I am free from anxiety for you.

It was a promise to you—given long, long ago—that I have now fulfilled.

Now you have to fulfill your part of the promise.

Take care; do not miss this opportunity.

Time is short.

That I should meet you again is also not positive.

Gather together all your resolve—completely.

Take the helm in your hands and start on the journey to the Eternity.

How many ages have passed with you still on the banks!

The winds are favourable.

I know. Therefore, I insist on pushing you from the banks.

God's Grace is pouring.

Open yourself to it; let it penetrate within you.

Drink it and dance!

Having come so close to nectar, would you still keep your thirst unquenched?

To: Swami Krishna Chaitanya, Ajol, Gujarat

143/ POWER IS WITHIN YOU

Dear Krishna Chaitanya,

Love. I am happy to receive your letter.
Power is within your own Self.
But you have no knowledge of it.
Therefore, to achieve your own power you need an inducement.
The day you realize this, **you will laugh!**
But till then, I am ready to be the medium.
I am laughing already and am waiting for the day when you too can participate in this Cosmic laughter.
Look: Krishna is laughing, Buddha is laughing!
Listen: The earth is laughing, the sky is laughing.
But man is weeping.
For he knows not what he is!
Ah! What fun! What frolic!
The Emperor goes on begging, and the fish is thirsty in the Ocean!

To: Swami Krishna Chaitanya, Ajol

144/ DIE AND KNOW...LOSE AND FIND

Beloved Jasoo,

Love. You wish for the sun: you will definitely find it.
But then, you must have the courage to burn!
Light cannot be attained without extinguishing oneself.
For our pride alone is the darkness.
Besides, the sun is not anywhere outside.
When everything burns within, it is born.
The burning of the ego is the light.
The fear of extinction is the darkness.
The jump into extinction is the light.
Die and know.
Lose and find.
That is why I call love prayer.
That is the initial lesson in extinction.
Love to Ram.
Regards to all.

To: Kumari Jasoo (Ma Yoga Prem), Ajol

145/ LOVE IN EVERY BREATH

Dear Yoga Prem,

Love. I am happy to receive your letter.
Love alone is now your prayer.
Love alone is worship.
Love alone is God.
Let there be love in every breath—that alone is your sadhana.
While sitting, rising.
While sleeping, awake.
Have but one remembrance—that of love.
And then you will know that His Temple is not far off.

To: Ma Yoga Prem, Ajol

146/ SANNYAS—THE SUPREME ENJOYMENT OF LIFE

Dear Yoga Priya,

Love. I am very happy on your having taken Sannyas.

The life in which the flowers of Sannyas do not bloom, that tree is barren.

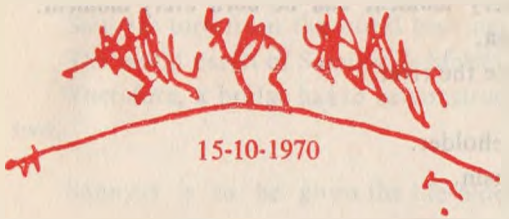
Because, **Sannyas alone is the supreme music of life.**

Sannyas is not renunciation.

On the contrary, it is life's supreme enjoyment.

Verily, stones and pebbles drop away from he who finds diamonds and pearls.

Mind you, he does not leave them—they drop off on their own.



To: Ma Yoga Priya, Ajol

147/ SANNYAS IS THE NEW BIRTH

Dear Yoga Yasha,

Love. My good wishes on your new life.
Sannyas is a new birth.
In oneself, from oneself, of oneself.
It is death also.
Not ordinary—the Great Death.
It is the death of all that you were till yesterday.
That which you are now, that too will die every moment.
So that the new is born—so that the new may continue to be born.
Now you will not be you, for even a moment.
You have to die every moment and be born every moment.
This alone is sadhana.
You have to live like the river.
Not like the pond.
The pond is a householder.
The river—a sannyasin.

To: Ma Yoga Yasha, Ajol

148/ THE DESCENT OF SANNYAS TO THE WORLD

Dear Prem Krishna,

Love. The fragrance of Sannyas is to be transmitted to the world.

The prison-houses of religions have covered the flower of Sannyas also, within their enormous walls.

Therefore, the sannyasin has now to say: "I belong to no religion, for all religions are mine."

It was also a terrible mistake to tear Sannyas away from the world.
Sannyas torn from the world becomes anaemic.
The world bereft of Sannyas is lifeless.
Therefore, a bridge has to be constructed anew, between the two.

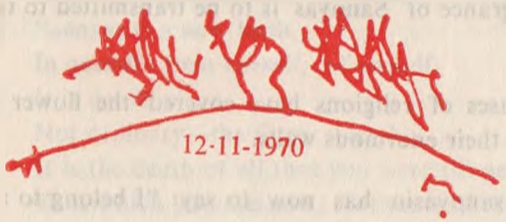
Sannyas is to be given the life-blood, and the world has to be given its soul.
Sannyas has to be brought into the mundane world.
Fearless and unattached.
In the world—yet out of it.
In the crowds—and yet alone!

The world is to be brought into Sannyas also.
Fearless and unattached.

One must be established in Sannyas and, yet, not in escape from the world.
One must be in Sannyas and, yet, very much within the world.

Only then can that golden bridge be built which would join the visible with the non-visible and form with the Formless.

Throw yourself into this glorious work!
Be a worker in the construction of this bridge!

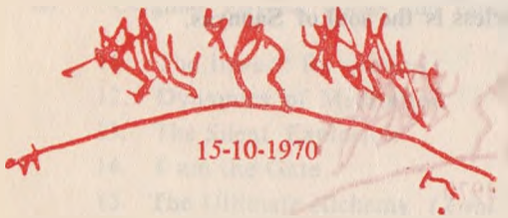


To: Swami Prem Krishna, Ajol, Gujarat

149/ THE PRIDE OF A SANNYASIN SON

Dear Anandamurti,

Love. Be of steel—it will not do now to be of clay.
To be a sannyasin is to be the soldier of God.
Serve your mother and your father.
Much more than before.
Give them the bliss of a sannyasin son.
But do not give in.
Be firm on your resolve.
In that is the prestige of the family.
The son who makes a compromise in a resolve of the stature of Sannyas is a blot on the family.
I have full confidence in you.
Therefore, I have been a witness to your Sannyas.
Laugh and bear everything.
Laugh and hear everything.
This is your sadhana.
Storms will come and go.



To: Swami Anandamurti, Ahmedabad

150/ THE SOUL OF A SANNYASIN: FIXED, FIRM AND FEARLESS

Dear Yoga Samadhi,

Love. Sannyas is the journey to Mount "Gaurishanker".
There are definitely difficulties in the ascent.
But the fruits of firm resolve are very sweet too.
Bear everything with calm and joy.
But never give up your resolve.
Serve your mother, more than before.
Sannyas is not to run away from responsibilities.
Family is not to be given up; rather, the whole world has to be made into one's family.

Arouse your mother's interest and eagerness toward Sannyas also.

Tell her: "You have looked enough toward the world, now look in the direction of God."

Be very mindful. She has no trouble on your account.
Bu; this does not mean giving in or compromising.
Sannyas knows no compromise.
Fixed, firm and fearless is the soul of Sannyas.

To: Ma Yoga Samadhi, Rajkot, Gujarat

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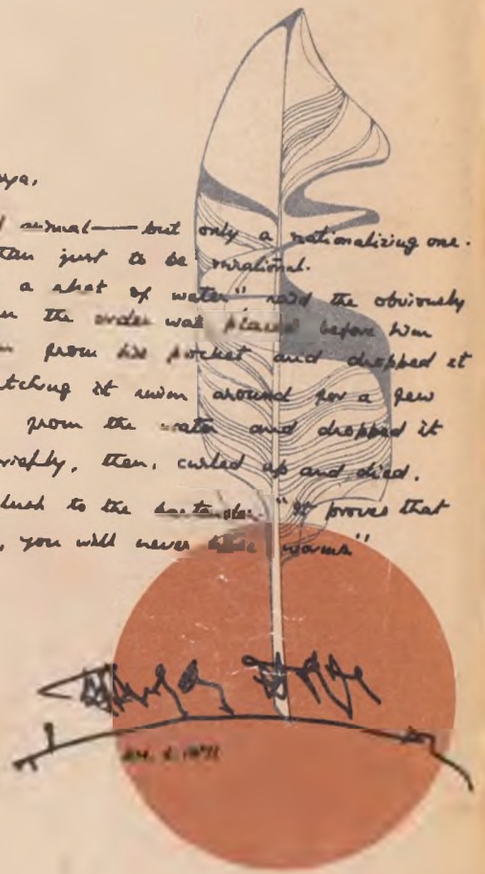
Ma Yog Loxmi
Rajneesh Foundation
Shree Rajneesh Ashram
17, Koregaon Park, Poona-1, India
Telephones: 28127, 22845

dear yoga chinamaya,

love. man is not a rational animal — but only a rationalizing one. and, that is more dangerous than just to be irrational.

"Give a shot of bourbon and a shot of water" — said the obviously heavy drinker to the bartender. When the order was placed before him on the bar, the lush pulled a worm from his pocket and dropped it into the glass of water. After watching it writhe around for a few seconds, the man drew the worm from the water and dropped it into the whiskey. It wriggled briefly, then, curled up and died.

"You see that?" said the lush to the bartender. "It proves that if you keep on drinking whiskey, you will never get worms."



dec. 2, 1971